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BLEEDING, CLOTTING EVENTS POST COVID JABS MINUSCULE

National Adverse Event Following Immunisation Committee (AEFI) said 26 potential cases were reported after the drive

0.61 CASES PER MILLION COVISHIELD SHOTS

The health ministry data said of the 23,000 adverse events after jabs, only 700 or 9.3 cases/million doses were serious. The AEFI reviewed 498 such cases and found 26 potential thromboembolic (clots in blood vessel) events, pegging the reporting rate at 0.61 cases/million Covishield doses. It reported no potential thromboembolic events after Covaxin jabs | P7

FIGURE LOWER COMPARED TO UK, GERMANY

- The analysis followed global reports of embolic and thrombotic events after AstraZeneca-Oxford (Covishield) shots in March
- Figures in India are much lower than the four cases/million doses reported in the UK or 10 events per million doses in Germany
- AEFI in-depth study sample was based on jab figures till April 3

70%

LESS RISK OF AEFI AMONG SOUTHEAST ASIANS THAN EUROPEANS: PANEL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Amid Covid crisis, lockdown may be extended, hints CM

Decision yet to be taken on duration; financial package for vulnerable sections being planned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday said the government is contemplating extending the lockdown currently in force in Karnataka. However the number of days, is yet to be decided.

Speaking to the media after a meeting with district Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat CEOs, Superintendents of Police from across the State, the Chief Minister said that a financial assistance package for the poor, affected by the lockdown, was also being considered. "The existing 14-day lockdown will end on May 24. We are still discussing how many days of extension will be required. A final decision will be taken in a couple of days," he said.

During the first wave of Covid-19 and corresponding lockdown last year, Karnataka was one of the first states to announce an economic relief package for farmers, cab and auto drivers, barbers, washermen, etc., apart from subsidies and incentives for MSMEs and small businesses.

The Chief Minister's subtle hint at an extension of the lockdown comes close on the heels of ministers, like R Ashok, Dr K Sudhakar, publicly speaking about extending the curbs since the caseload in the state is still quite high. While cases have been reducing significantly in Bengaluru, tier-2 and tier-3 cities and rural areas have been witnessing a spike.

Sources in the government suggest that while a lockdown may be imminent, additional restrictions are unlikely. A lockdown extension is on the cards, especially considering that the vaccination drive for those aged 18-44 has temporarily been suspended in the state.

K'TAKA SECOND WAVE BATTLE

6,03,639 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES	34,635 Recoveries	1,12,60,587 TOTAL VACCINATIONS	
	476 Deaths		39.70% Positivity Rate
38,603 Test positive on Monday	97,236 Samples Tested on Monday		1.23% Case Fatality Rate

Strong waves pummel a promenade near the Gateway of India, as the cyclone passes by the Mumbai coast. The Meteorological Department has reclassified Tauktae as 'very severe cyclonic storm'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Maharashtra and Gujarat CMs Uddhav Thakeray and Vijay Rupani, respectively, and assured them of help | PTI

Tauktae kills 6 in Maha before Gujarat landfall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

TROPICAL cyclone Tauktae, which formed in the Arabian Sea, made landfall in Gujarat late on Monday night. The cyclonic storm, packing wind speeds up to 210 kmph, pummeled the west coast before landfall between Porbandar and Mahuva in Bhavnagar district around 9.30 pm.

En route to Gujarat, Tauktae left a trail of destruction in Maharashtra, where the coastal districts bore the brunt of heavy rains accompanied by squally winds, which uprooted trees and electricity poles, damaged over 2,000 houses and left at least six persons dead. Over 12,000 people were relocated from the coastal areas.

Authorities in Gujarat evacuated around 1.5 lakh people from low-lying areas, besides deploying 54 teams NDRF and SDRF teams. Three major airports — Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara — have been closed till Tuesday, officials said.

Over 55 flights to and from Mumbai were cancelled after the city airport suspended operations for the day as wind speeds gusted to 114 kmph. P8

TWO BARGES ADRIFT WITH 410 ABOARD

The severe cyclonic storm de-anchored two barges at the Bombay High with 410 personnel but all of them were safe. The Indian Navy has deployed three frontline warships to rescue the people aboard the barges

Prospect of good monsoon raises hopes of farmers

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AMIDST the pandemic and the havoc caused by Cyclone Tauktae, farmers in the state may have something to look forward to. With just weeks left for the monsoon to arrive, meteorologists say that most of Karnataka will receive normal to above normal rainfall while some regions will get normal or below normal rainfall. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the South-West monsoon will hit Kerala by June 1 and is expected to enter Karnataka by the first week of June.

Speaking to *TNIE*, former director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre and senior consultant G S Srinivasa Reddy said as per the IMD prediction, this monsoon Karnataka will get good rain.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Narada scam: 3 TMC MLAs in CBI net

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE CBI on Monday created a big flutter by arresting three newly elected Trinamool Congress lawmakers — two of them ministers — and a former Trinamool minister and mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), who had joined the BJP but later resigned, in connection with the 2014 Narada sting operation. While a special court granted all four interim bail, the Calcutta High Court stayed it following a CBI appeal. They will now be in judicial custody till the HC hears their case on Wednesday.

The arrests were made following prosecution sanction given by Governor Jagdeep Dhankar. But the Trinamool called it illegal as the CBI had not sought the Speaker's permission. "The CBI did not seek my permission to arrest the MLAs. I received no letter from them," said Speaker Biman Banerjee.

Early in the morning, CBI sleuths raided the apartments and houses of panchayat minister Subrata Mukherjee, a veteran in Bengal politics, urban development and transport minister Firhad Hakim, who is also administrator of the KMC, Trinamool MLA from Kamarhati, North 24 Parganas, Madan Mitra and Sovan Chatterjee, former mayor of KMC, and arrested them. P8

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 16 **17,33,232 doses**

May 17 **17,33,232 doses**

TOTAL DOSES: 18,22,20,164

NATIONWIDE	MAY 16	MAY 17
Fresh cases	3,11,170	2,81,386
Recoveries	3,62,437	3,78,741
Deaths	4,077	4,106

'Demand shock' to add to India Inc's distress: RBI

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

THE second Covid wave could push businesses into further distress with a 'demand shock' as people — and companies — are holding on to their purses due to falling incomes, job losses, and an overall weak consumer sentiment, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

"High frequency indicators suggest that the biggest toll of the second wave is in terms of a demand shock – loss of mobility, discretionary spending and employment, besides inventory accumulation, while the aggregate supply is less impacted," RBI said in its monthly bulletin for May, released on Monday.

Painting even a bleaker picture for the economy, RBI said its recent projections were "extremely tentative" given the disproportionate base effects. It added that it might have to revise its GDP growth forecast of 26.2% for the first quarter "made before the full fury of the resurgence".

CONTINUED ON: P10

179 BLACK FUNGUS CASES, 14 DEATHS IN 8 B'LURU HOSPITALS

RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

EIGHT private and government hospitals in Bengaluru alone have recorded 179 cases of Mucormycosis, or Black Fungus disease, among Covid-19 and post-Covid-19 patients, data collected by The New Indian Express has revealed. Of the 179, this dreaded condition has caused 54 of Covid and post-Covid patients to suffer vision loss, while there have been 14 deaths.

Mucormycosis is an opportunistic fungal infection occurring in Covid-19 patients whose immunity levels are heavily compromised due to the viral disease. Taking advantage of this, the Mucorlean fungus - which is commonly the early coloniser resulting in black fungal growth in decaying organic matter - attacks the sinus before making its way below the eye socket and the internal lining of the skull.

Dr Gaurav Medikeri, programme director of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery, HCG Cancer Hospital, reported 60 patients, four of whom with problems of the eye, but there were no deaths.

At Apollo Hospitals, 25 cases have been reported, including one patient with total vision loss and three with partial vision loss. Dr Satish Nair, ENT, Apollo Hospitals, said, initially the symptoms start with blocked nose, loss of sensation in the teeth, cheek and watery nose. Then it spreads to the eyes, and causes swelling, redness, double vision and even loss of vision."In the initial stages, with treatment, the patient does well. But once there is vision loss, we do not get good results. And when there is involvement of the brain, which is the third stage, the prognosis is poor, leading to death. Here, symptoms include sinus, loss of sensorium, fits, high fever, difficulty in breathing, depending on which part of the brain is affected, weakness, stroke, hemorrhage, etc," Dr Nair explained.

At Minto Eye Hospital, Director Dr Sujatha Rathod said 32 cases have been reported, including 20 who came to their OPD. Fifteen of them were referred to Bowring Hospital, and five admitted in the Covid-19 ward. Totally, 11 patients in the Covid-19 ward had black fungus and all of them suffered vision loss in one or both eyes. Four died while two others were discharged. P4

EXPRESS READ

WPI inflation hits double digits in April at 10.49 pc

New Delhi: The wholesale price-based inflation shot up to an all-time high of 10.49 per cent in April, on rising prices of food items, crude oil and manufactured goods, and experts believe that the uptrend is likely to continue. This is the fourth straight month of uptick seen in the wholesale price index. The low base in April last year also contributed to the spike in April 2021.

3 killed in encounter between Naxals & police

Bijapur: Three persons were killed in an exchange of fire between Naxals and security forces in a forest along the border of Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh on Monday, a police official said. It was yet to be ascertained whether the deceased were Naxals or civilians, he said, adding that there was no casualty among the security personnel involved in the battle.

HELP FOR HUSBAND

ASHA worker too can't get hospital bed in time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

AMIDST all the claims and assurances of a 'streamlined' bed allocation system in Mysuru, an ASHA worker herself was made to knock on the doors of various hospitals in Mysuru and had to rush to Mandya district in a private cab just to find a bed for her Covid-19 infected husband.

The ordeal of the ASHA worker, who hails from Chamanahalli, Bannur, in T Narasipur taluk, continued all through Sunday till late evening on Monday despite calls to the district war room and visits to the Covid Mitras as well as physical triaging centres in the district as well as a frantic hospital run in Mandya.

According to Kanyakumari, her husband Swamy (42), who has a host of co-morbidities, had tested positive for the disease. "In our taluk and also in Mysuru, our superiors asked us to isolate him at home. But his oxygen saturation level was rapidly falling below 85, his sugar level was in excess of 200 and his health was deteriorating. He needed medical help. Moreover, ours is a small house with a single washroom,"

Kanyakumari with her husband, Swamy, in Mysuru | UDAYSHANKAR S

Kanyakumari said.

The visit to Covid Mitras did not help and calls to the district war room yielded nothing. "They said we will be contacted, but to no avail. Since he complained of uneasiness, we rushed him to Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital in Mysuru but they refused to admit us. Every other government hospital turned him away. Private hospitals demanded advance payment in excess of Rs 50,000 to admit him," she said.

Dejected, she rushed him to Mandya where doctors asked to get the patient admitted, but washed their hands off saying there were no beds.

CONTINUED ON: P4

ALMANAC TODAY
Tuesday: 18/05/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishala • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Sashti 7.30 am
Nakshatra: Pushyami 10.26 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 03:00 am to 04:30 am
Gulikakala: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • Yamaganda: 09:00 am to 10:30 am

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Broken clouds

Sunrise 5.53 am
Sunset 6.38 pm
Moonrise 11.03 am
Moonset 12.00 pm

As cases drop, hospitals get a breather

Demand for beds comes down after decline over past week; experts say lockdown led to lighter caseload

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

WITH Bengaluru seeing a steady decline in Covid cases over the past week, city hospitals are getting a breather of sorts as the number of admissions have been coming down.

The number of new cases in the city started dropping from May 10 after weeks of witnessing a surge. Just a day before, the city had recorded 20,786 cases, after which it dropped to 16,747 cases on May 10, to 15,879 (May 11), 16,286 (May 12), 15,191 (May 13), 14,316 (May 14) and 13,402 (May 15) with a further drop to 8,344 cases May 16. On May 17, however, the city saw an increase at 13,338 new cases, but still better than what was reported in the first week of May.

According to the war room, the positivity rate in Bengaluru was 23.3 per cent between April 23 and 29, after which it shot up to 30.6 per cent between April 30 and May 6. The rate increased to 38.3 per cent between May 7 and 13, before dropping to 28.7 per cent between May 14 and 16. Experts attributed the drop in new cases to a number of factors like many patients preferring to stay at home after procuring oxygen cylinders as well as the setting up of more makeshift hospitals and Covid Care Centres. But most important of all, the reduction in cases was due to the lockdown, they felt.

Dr Nagaraj, Director of Rajiv Gandhi institute of Chest Diseases and member of the state Covid committee, said that the lockdown could have led to the decline in cases as movement and gathering of people was curtailed. "However, we need to see the number of cases for another week to predict if the cases will continue to fall."

"After closely monitoring the entire Covid situation, I can say that currently, the problem of shortage of beds is relatively less compared to what it was before a week or 10 days ago. Although there is a high demand for oxygen beds, people are getting beds," said Dr Suri Raju V, Medical Director, Regal Multi-Speciality Hospital.

He felt that one of the reasons for this is that the number of oxygen beds has increased and CCCs now have them. "People have started using oxygen concentrators at home, which, according to me, is also contributing significantly towards availability of beds."

However, another expert pointed out that testing in Bengaluru has come down from more than 80,000 in April to under 50,000 now, and this is why the cases have come down.

Dr Srinivas Chirukuri, CEO, Prakriya Hospitals, said that there is a 20 per cent drop in demand for beds. "The demand was huge with a big waiting list earlier. This has come down over the last four days."

Volunteers on the ground are optimistic that Bengaluru might be healing as the bed scarcity has come down. "A good number of patients are now able to walk in and get beds. Even our volunteers handling burials or cremation have seen a decline in the number of deaths," said Saqib Idrees, a volunteer wit Bangalore For Migrants.

BBMP triaging centres across zones

The government has announced the formation of 32 Level-2 physical triaging centres across eight zones, where patients will be triaged and suggested home isolation, admission to CCCs or hospitals. BBMP is setting up Level-1 triaging centres at the ward level, besides mobile triaging centres which will visit people at home for traiging.

SOPs FOR PHYSICAL TRIAGING

- Person tests positive (symptomatic)
- Medical officer performs medical triage, assesses suitability of home isolation (home adequacy check)
- If suitable, home isolation advised
- UPHC concerned informed

NOT SUITABLE FOR HOME ISOLATION

- Asymptomatic/ mild symptoms with SPO2 around **94%** – Shift to CCC
- Moderate symptoms with **90%-93%** SPO2, admit to DCHC or BBMP stabilisation centre, give O2 support

SEVERE SYMPTOMS, SPO2 LESS THAN 90%

Shift to Covid hospital for tertiary care

Karnataka State Road Corporation officials launch two oxybuses in Bengaluru on Monday

Oxy vehicles not hospitals, good only for Golden Hour aid, say experts

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

MEENA (name changed) had brought her father from Kanakapura to Shanthinagar looking for oxygen, but was struggling to find an ICU bed in a hospital. With his oxygen level dipping and in immediate need of medical attention, the 'Oxygen on Wheels' service came to his rescue in the Golden Hour.

However, though such services, launched by Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and several other organisations, have drawn a positive response, experts warn of its negative impact too - patients may not just need oxygen, but medical help also.

Some doctors and experts are of the view that such a service is the need of the hour for patients in the initial period when there is difficulty in getting an oxygen bed. Others feel that these should not be looked at as an alternative to a hospital bed, but rather just like first-aid during the Golden Hour to stabilise the patient. They demand that the government, which has helped in starting the services, should now ensure they tie-up with hospitals.

In the four days since the launch by BMTC and NGO Foundation India, the OxyBus service has administered oxygen to 50-80 patients. On Monday, the transport utility extended it to Chikkamagaluru, Chikkaballapur and Jigani near Bengaluru. Even the Karnataka State Road Corporation followed, launching two oxygen buses on Monday. Private individuals are also not far behind. Two more Maruti Omni cars, remodelled as oxygen vehicles, have been introduced.

Foundation India secretary Sanjay Gupta stressed they do not guarantee treatment and the service is just timely help till the patient finds an oxygen bed. "After taking oxygen for two-six hours, depending on the patients' condition, they either go to a hospital or their homes. We also help in looking for a hospital bed," he said.

Dr Vishal Rao, member, expert committee, Covid Task Force, Government of India, concurred with Gupta. "This is a good make-shift solution till the patient gets a bed. But such services should tie up with hospitals, or the government should facilitate this," he said.

Pointing out to recent orders as per which Covid Care Centres and step-down hospitals should be set up under the Karnataka Medical Establishments Act, an expert and adviser to the government said that such mobile oxygen services are no different. "But the oxygen vehicles could be risky and someone should be accountable if there are any incidents."

Experts also caution that the vehicles could become super-spreaders as has been reported from other states.

New biomarkers can tell viral, bacterial infections apart: IISc

BENGALURU: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have found a set of molecular biomarkers which can identify acute bacterial from viral infections, including Covid-19.This can be a breakthrough in medical field, the researchers believe, especially in times of Covid--which is a viral infection--- in preventing improper use of antibiotics due to trial-and-error treatments from misdiagnosis of infectious diseases. Antibiotics are said to be effective against bacterial and not viral infections. In the study published in the journal EBioMedicine, researchers believe the test could help differentiate between Covid infection and bacterial infection, and could even supplement the present diagnostic tests used for Covid. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics to treat any kind of infection has given rise to bacterial strains that are now resistant to our entire arsenal of antibiotics, said researchers. ENS

NOT THE RIGHT TIME

TWITTERATI ASKS PM TO CANCEL CLASS 12 EXAMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWITTERATI have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media to cancel the CBSE Class 12 offline examinations due to the Covid-19 situation. They have been requesting alternatives such as having entrance examinations for colleges.

#Modiji_cancel12thboards was among the top trends on the micro-blogging site on Monday. This comes after the board decided to cancel the Class 10 exams. The board announced that the schedule for Class 12 exams would be announced on June 1. Various memes were making the rounds on the platform around the issue. Students told TNIE about the stress they were under as the board's decision had been postponed till June 1.

Prof Dineshkumar Gupta, a math teacher said, "A million students are demanding that the board exams be cancelled. Students are now frustrated as they have been in the same class for more than a year."

India Wide Parents Association president and child rights activist, Advocate Anubha Shrivastava Sahai, asked the government to take a decision immediately. "Students are under a lot of stress. The second wave is very dangerous. We need to prepare for the third wave and avoid offline exams."

Educationist Niranjanaradhya V P said that for other professional courses there were entrance exams. "The Ministry of Education should listen to some of the student's reasons for such a request. If their appeal is genuine, the government should consider it. We all are passing through difficult times," he said.

NO CANCELLATION OF SSLC, PU EXAMS

Mysuru: Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar scoffed off rumours over cancellation of SSLC and PU examination. Speaking to media persons on Monday, he appealed to students not to panic and focus on the studies as the government would take a decision on exams once the Covid curve flattens.

EXPRESS READ

BDA TO AUCTION 357 ACRES OF LAND

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to auction 357 acres of land that was identified in its land audit report, and call for global tenders for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project. These were the key decisions taken in BDA board meeting on Monday. A senior official said, "We have only auctioned corner sites so far. For the first time, we plan to auction regular sites," he said adding that the proposal will now be sent to the state government. A source said that many BDA officials have been put on the job to identify encroachments on its land. With three other firms keen on building the Rs 21,091-crore PRR Road, the much-awaited project to decongest the city's traffic, the authority has decided to call for global tenders for it. **ENS**

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

18th May: I was just reading an article about research into the horoscopes of serial killers. It seems there really might be an astrological connection, maybe a link with the Moon. Perhaps we could stop murderers before they commit any crimes! Or is that too much like science fiction?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You will have to listen very carefully to both criticism and advice. The point is that people who are trying to help you out will know what needs to be said, but perhaps not how to say it. Don't let the so-called facts get in the way - if only because they might be the wrong ones!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It will pay to keep your distance and accept that there is a price to pay for personal intimacy. The Moon will soon be in a helpful place, so you may easily reduce the emotional temperature and enjoy yourself at the same time. And if somebody is keeping a secret, it might be for a very good reason.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Once you have come to terms with enforced changes you should begin to see how to improve your bargaining position. From today you'll realise how a financial situation can be handled so much better. For a start, you can take control of circumstances rather than waiting for favourable conditions to turn up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
All your planning and hard work may come to nothing if you fail to keep partners informed: if they don't know what's going on, you can't blame them for putting a spanner in the works. You'll very soon move happily into a much more communicative phase.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You should be able to make up your mind at last. In fact, I'd say that you must take certain decisions now, especially if they affect your long-term security. There are indications that, whichever way you jump, the results will be to your liking. And that can't be bad!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Circumstances beyond your control are likely to alter much that you have come to take for granted, starting with financial plans and agreements. You may give all the time that is needed to talking about your needs at home, especially your desire for domestic security.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The coming period brings planetary alignments that are well-nigh perfect. If ever you were in a position to make that final leap into a state of perpetual harmony, this is it. Make sure your feet don't leave the ground, though. In other words, keep going!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You are quite happy in the knowledge that you don't know what's going on. That's good, for you should not be troubled by the sort of little uncertainties that could be a feature of your life at the moment. You need to let other people shine, by the way, so stand back and give credit where it's due.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If nobody has been willing to share your burdens in the past, have another go at soliciting support today. You may find friends in such a good mood that you can catch them off guard and lure them into uncharacteristic commitments. Whether that's good for the future or not is an open question!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There are a number of hurdles yet to be overcome, one of which is self-doubt. Believe in yourself and the whole world will believe in you, too! At least, partners will give you a lot more credit for your better ideas. When you take a second look, an apparent obstacle might actually be a major advantage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You're on a major cycle which deals with emerging maturity and wisdom, and today and tomorrow you're hitting a critical point along the way. This could be a moment to pause for self-congratulation, but also to plan the fundamental direction of your life over the coming years.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Nobody would blame you if you found current events slightly frustrating. It's just that no matter how much you achieve, there is still more to be done. Spare some time for your day dreams, though, for the answer to a major question might lie deep in your imagination.

THE PHANTOM

A CALL TO CIUDAD JARDÍN, MEXICO
"HELLO, ELENA? I HAVE AN IDEA THAT MIGHT HELP GET ERNESTO OUT OF RHODIA AND BACK HOME TO YOU."
OH, BUT MY ERNESTO IS SAFE, MR. WALKER!! HE'S ESCAPED TO BANGALLA!!
I'M SO SORRY I FAILED TO LET YOU KNOW OUR HAPPY NEWS!
Falk 4/16

HI AND LOIS

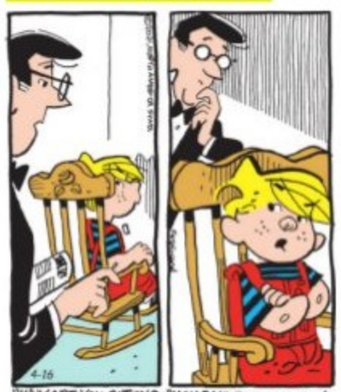
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

WANNA HEAR MY ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL REPORT, MR. B.?
SURE, ELMO
MR. BELL SENT HISTORY'S FIRST MESSAGE: WATSON, COME HERE!
WATSON TEXTED BACK: I'M BUSY! LOL!
I TOOK SOME LIBERTIES WITH THE DIALOGUE...
YEAH, I NOTICED

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Evil: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

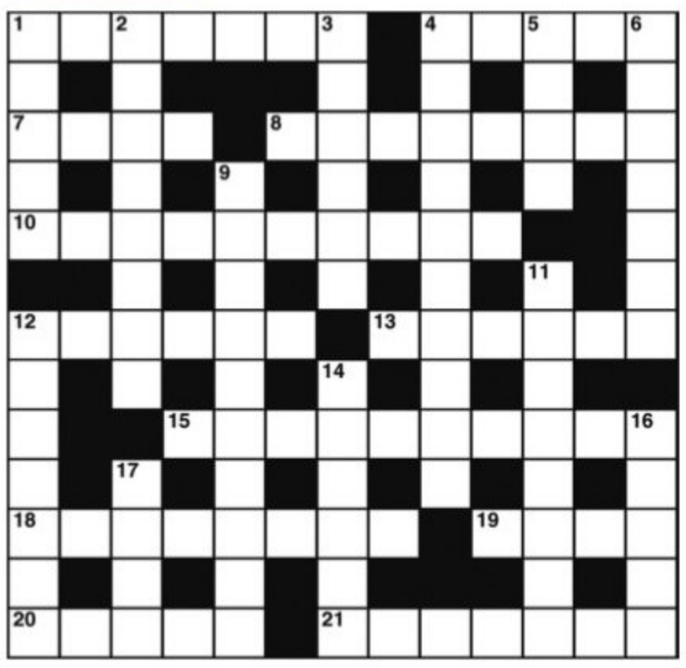
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

3		5		2				
	2		8		9	5		4
			5		3	8		
	1	7				9	3	
		8	1		4			
8		9	3		1		6	
				5		4		9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

8	7	2	6	3	4	9	5	1
4	1	6	8	5	9	3	7	2
3	5	9	2	1	7	4	8	6
6	8	5	3	4	2	1	9	7
2	3	1	9	7	8	6	4	5
9	4	7	5	6	1	2	3	8
7	6	3	1	9	5	8	2	4
1	2	4	7	8	3	5	6	9
5	9	8	4	2	6	7	1	3

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 A loud story not factual but friendly (7)
4 Pop's executors? (5)
7 A good likeness (4)
8 Is around perhaps but it disappeared ages ago (8)
10 Not altogether how pyramids are built (2,2),5)
12 To people one is a danger (6)
13 Stays will alter a waist (6)
15 The cold wind is a great disappointment (6,4)
18 Was successful as an improver? (4,4)
19 Michael may shortly use it for broadcasting (4)
20 Mother's taken on at the lodge (5)
21 Prominent foreigner in the way (7)

DOWN

1 Impressive stamp edged with gold - the last word in France (5)
2 The kind of capital in a buoyant economy? (8)
3 He has an important job on paper (6)
4 Land and labour required for a foundation (10)
5 Over fifty eggs are this shape (4)
6 Groups of wild pirates (7)
9 Understanding that's becoming popular (8,2)
11 It is inclined to disappear when troubles intervene (8)
12 It's the most you can expect (7)
14 Sharpens games up (6)
16 Point in question raised by farmer (5)
17 Love of French poems (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 French bread, 9 Octagon, 10 Burro, 11 Task, 12 Builders, 14 Opener, 16 Leased, 18 Exporter, 19 Tsar, 22 Strum, 23 Airport, 24 Go into space.

Down: 2 Rites, 3 Nigh, 4 Hang up, 5 Rebelled, 6 Airless, 7 Controversy, 8 Considerate, 13 Ferryman, 15 Esparto, 17 Legato, 20 Stoic, 21 Trip.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

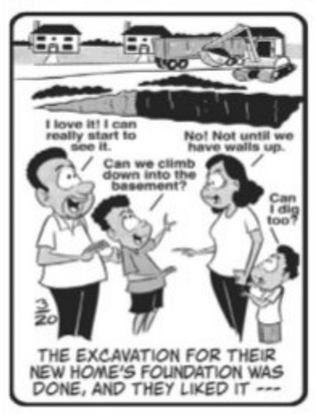
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WGLRO

MTUHP

LEEFYU

BDAONU


I love it! I can really start to see it.
No! Not until we have walls up.
Can we climb down into the basement?
Can I dig too?
THE EXCAVATION FOR THEIR NEW HOME'S FOUNDATION WAS DONE, AND THEY LIKED IT ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here: ○ "○○○○" ○○○○

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:** YOUTH DAISY DEPICT MODEST
ANSWER: Not everyone believes that marriage is for them, but those who do – ESPOUSE IT

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In the wake of lockdown restricting mobility, the Karnataka Samyuktha Kissan Morcha has urged the government to distribute seeds and fertilisers in all village panchayats

TAKING TO TASK

PULL UP YOUR SOCKS, YEDIYURAPPA TELLS DCs

On eve of their interaction with PM, Chief Minister asks officials what will they show Modi regarding measures in Covid fight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CM BS Yediyurappa holds a video conference with DCs in Bengaluru on Monday

WITH the number of Covid cases on the rise in rural, semi-urban and Tier II and III cities in Karnataka, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday directed the district authorities to get cracking on containing the pandemic.

While extending support, the Chief Minister is said to have come down heavily on DCs over complaints on shortage of medicines, oxygen augmentation and improper implementation of lockdown in various districts. Yediyurappa is said to have sought response from the DCs on what they intend to show as effective measures they took in their respective districts during the video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

"Containing the pandemic has to be made a priority in rural areas. District officials have been asked to ensure test results are provided within 24 hours. Home isolation protocol should be strictly implemented and the phone triaging process has to begin immediately," Yediyurappa said.

District authorities have been asked to provide medical kits to those in isolation. The state government has procured medicines that will suffice for about three months. Despite this, Deputy Commissioners have been asked to procure medicines locally if there is a shortage.

"Authorities have to estimate oxygen availability beforehand and make arrangements for supply," CM said following reports of deaths due to oxygen shortage. With Black Fungus turning into a concern, centres to treat patients will be set up in each division, the DCs were told.

"PSA generators will be provided to Chikkamagalur district on priority. A testing centre will be set up in Uttara Kannada shortly. Measures have to be taken to enhance oxygen production and bottling capacity at Bhadravati's VISL," Yediyurappa said.

It was reiterated that priority should be given to those above the age of 45 and awaiting the second dose and then to those above the age of 45 awaiting the first dose for the vaccination drive.

Deputy Commissioners have been asked to set up Covid Care Centres at hoblis to accommodate patients from villages. In-charge ministers and secretaries have been asked to speak to district authorities twice a week to monitor the ground situation.

PM to get ground report from DCs today

In a first of its kind interaction, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Tuesday interact directly with District Commissioners of the worst-hit districts. While Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will also be part of the conference, DCs of 17 districts -- Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Kodagu, Udupi, Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Shivamogga, Dharwad, Dakshin Kannada, Raichur, Mandya, Kalaburagi and Chikkaballapur -- are expected to give a ground report to the Prime Minister on Covid-19 containment measures and challenges. The video conference is scheduled at 11 am.

CM to decide on relief for Ch'nagar victims' kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

Two weeks after the Chamarajanagar tragedy that killed 24 Covid patients due to lack of oxygen, district in-charge minister S Suresh Kumar maintained that the State government will soon take a decision on payment of compensation to the families.

He said the Karnataka High Court has directed the government to pay relief to the families, and Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa will announce the government's stand to the court before the next hearing.

Speaking after inspecting Covid Care Centres and the taluk government hospital here on Monday, Suresh Kumar evaded questions on the tragedy, and said the case is sub-judice. Asked about lapses by officials, he said they are waiting for the next hearing and HC order.

He appealed to hospitals to utilise concentrators and other equipment to treat patients. Doctors from private hospitals have expressed anguish as many patients are reaching clinics and hospitals with breathlessness and low saturation levels, making it difficult for medical professionals to save them. "Many people isolate themselves at home, despite severe symptoms. They only reach hospital when matters get worse," he said.

Kumar said they have decided to step up RAT and RT-PCR tests to contain the spread of the virus. "We have instructed ASHA workers to shift all patients to CCCs who lack facilities at home," he said.

Refuting Opposition leader Siddaramaiah's charges that the State government has reduced testing drastically, he said they are doing their best to contain the spread and have already scaled up tests.

Why delay, questions SDPI

SDPI state secretary Abrar Ahmad questioned the government over the delay in acting against authorities, even after the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority presented the report to the High Court. He said the district minister has not resigned on moral grounds, he has even failed to announce compensation.

Govt failed the people, say Siddu, DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@KGF/Bangarpet/Malur

THE BJP has failed to protect the interests of the people, Opposition Leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah said here on Monday.

Addressing Congress workers in KGF, Bangarpet and Malur, where the party distributed provision kits to the needy, he said although experts alerted the government regarding the second wave, the government did not take any action.

Siddaramaiah said the government should have increased ventilators, beds and oxygen facilities, but had completely failed in all respects, leading to hundreds of deaths every day. There are no beds in any hospitals in Bengaluru or any city in Karnataka, and the State government should take responsibility for this failure, he added.

KPCC President D K Shivakumar said it is unfortuante that there is a scam in bed allotment, besides differences of opinion among BJP leaders, but in this time of crisis, the government should take up work on a war footing.

Chaos at meet

There was some confusion at the Congress meeting, where the leaders had insisted on following Covid norms like social distancing, and limited the number of participants at KGF City Municipality Ground. Former KUDA chairman, Congress leader Jayapal attempted to enter the ground with his supporters. Though police did not allow him, he managed to come in later and showed his displeasure to senior leaders.

Minister Nirani favours extending lockdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kalaburagi

Mines and Geology Minister Murugesh Nirani, who is also district in-charge minister, is in favour of extending lockdown for 10 more days in the State to stem the spread of coronavirus cases.

The minister, who arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit to inspect taluk general hospitals in the district, spoke to mediapersons before leaving for Chittapur and Shahabad.

Nirani said, "Though Covid cases are on the decline in the district for three days, we should be cautious and follow safety protocols."

The minister said he had spoken with the health minister and home minister. The government will take a decision on the matter soon, after seeking suggestions from the expert committee, Nirani said.

The mines and geology department has proposed to establish two oxygen generation plants in each of the five divisions in the state.

TOUGH DAYS

Declare teachers as Covid-19 warriors: Horatti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STATE Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Monday expressed concerns over the deaths of teachers due to Covid-19. A number of teachers who were deputed to bypoll duties in the state too have died of Covid in the past few weeks.

In a letter to Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, Horatti, who represents teachers constituency in the Legislative Council for 42 years, said that for many years, teachers have been deputed for poll work, census and other tasks, but unfortunately, the governments have not shown interest in providing them with health facilities and protection they require.

He urged the state government to declare all teachers as Covid warriors.

Vaccination must be provided to them and their family members on priority, he added.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Vijay Kumar B. Bhojani**, S/o. Sri. Babulal Bhojani, Aged about 41 years, R/at Sambhav Krupa, Mount Joy Road, Near Bull Temple, Hanumantha Nagar, Gavipuram Extension, Bengaluru - 560 019, hereby declare that **Dhir Vijay Bhojani** and **Dheer Vijay Bhojani** is the name of one and the same person and that is of my son. Now I have changed my son's name from **Dhir Vijay Bhojani** to **Dheer Vijay Bhojani** vide affidavit dated 23.04.2021 sworn before Advocate & Notary D. Guna Shekar, Bangalore.

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Date : 17.5.2021
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BELLARY DISTRICT, BELLARY 583101

Telephone: 08392-277100, Fax 08392-272538, E-mailt: dcbellary@gmail.com

Date: 16/05/2021

Paper Notification

The District Administration Bellary Expanding The Medical Infrastructure and Other Medical Facilities at 1000 Bed Covid Hospital Torangallu to accommodate unprecedent raise in Covid-19 cases, following Posts for 11 months on contract basis have been called for walk in interview from the date: 17/05/2021 to 20/05/2021 at District Health and Family Welfare Office Bellary during Office hours, Candidates attending the Interview should produce original documents during the verification. For more information contact in office hours phone number 08392-276250 or AAO 8951656265. Free Food and Accommodation will be Provided for selected candidates

1000 Bed Covid Hospital Torangallu Bellary District

Sl No.	Posts Details	Numbers Required	Education	Salary (for month)
1	Physician/ Pulmolnologist	20	MBBS MD/DNB/Diploma in Chest Diseases	4,00,000/-
2	Anaesthetist	15	MBBS MD/ Diploma	4,00,000/-
3	Doctors	30	MBBS	1,00,000/-

Special Instructions:
1) The appointment is temporary on contractual basis. It will not be made permanent.
2) The contract period is for 11 months only.
3) Applications of Doctors who are already working in any of the Government Hospital / Government Medical College districts in Karnataka either on permanent or contract basis shall not be considered.
4) Food and Accommodation will be provided.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Bellari

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

STAY HOME STAY SAFE

As COVID continues its onslaught, our homes are the safe havens for us to stay in and be protected. Step out only for supplies and also limit those occasions to the bare minimum. A regular inventory check will help in planning for the week. Stay home and lend your support!

Sanitize frequently | Wear a Mask | Maintain social distancing

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS | THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | The MORNING STANDARD | THE SUNDAY STANDARD
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU TUESDAY 18.05.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

38,603 CASES REPORTED TODAY

31,531 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	22,42,065
YESTERDAY	22,03,462

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
476	403

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
34,635	36,475

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
6,03,639	6,00,147

POSITIVITY RATE
TODAY 8.01%
YESTERDAY 7.90%

MORTALITY RATE
TODAY 0.99%
YESTERDAY 0.99%

RECOVERY RATE
TODAY 72.08%
YESTERDAY 71.77%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until May 17, 2021, a total of 22,42,065 cases have been reported in 1 year and 67 days...

1,12,60,587 Number of people vaccinated across the state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Health care workers 1st dose	6,99,534
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,61,165
Frontline workers 1st dose	4,91,998
Frontline workers 2nd dose	1,95,211
Age 18-45 1st dose	1,17,360
Age 45st dose	74,34,596
Age 45 2nd dose	18,60,723

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

13,338 BENGALURU URBAN
426 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalakote: 305	Chamarajanagara: 516	Dakshina Kannada: 817	Hassan: 2,324	Kolar: 713	Raichuru: 562	Udupi: 897
Ballari: 2,322	Chikkaballapura: 799	Davanagere: 747	Haveri: 142	Koppala: 470	Ramanagara: 397	Uttara Kannada: 1,288
Belagavi: 1,748	Chikkamagaluru: 732	Dharwad: 972	Kalaburagi: 695	Mandya: 1,087	Shivamogga: 1,322	Vijayapura: 233
Bidar: 172	Chitradurga: 407	Gadag: 475	Kodagu: 442	Mysuru: 1,980	Tumakuru: 1,915	Yadagir: 360

DyCM: State looks to global partners to fight pandemic

Says govt mulls procuring drugs, equipment from friendly nations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

The need of the hour is to explore possibilities of collaboration in the procurement of drugs, that are needed for critical treatments

Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Deputy CM, while addressing a virtual meeting of 'Global Innovation Alliance' partner countries

AS the Covid-19 situation remains grim, the State Government is exploring the possibility of procuring drugs and other equipment from friendly nations."The need of the hour is to explore possibilities of collaboration in the procurement of drugs, that are needed for critical treatments," Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and State Covid Task Force Chairman Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said while addressing a virtual meeting of "Global Innovation Alliance" partner countries, on Monday. The meeting was organised by the state Information Technology and Biotechnology Department.

The DyCM said the state government wants to have sophisticated, multi-speciality hospitals across the state and provide ICUs and other necessary healthcare services even in remote areas. "This is not possible without active global collaboration and partnerships," he said and added that imposing lockdowns and simultaneously balancing the health, social and economic concerns was a huge challenge.

He explained various measures taken by the government to contain the Covid spread and to treat patients, and emphasised the need for collaboration to fight the pandemic

During the interaction, the representatives from Israel, Japan, the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, South Korea, Switzerland, Denmark and other countries spoke about assistance being provided to India to fight the pandemic and shared experiences of Covid management in their countries, said a statement issued by the DyCM's office.

South Korean Consul-General in Chennai Kwon Young-seup said they were establishing vaccine manufacturing units to address concerns of vaccine shortage globally. He asked the state government to help South Korean citizens who are finding it difficult to get hospital beds.

While the Australian representative explained that they were providing medical supplies through the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, the German representative said they were partnering with Rotary Club (Karnataka) to set up beds and other facilities apart from setting up an oxygen plant in Bengaluru. Israel Consul-General Jonathan Zadka said Israel will help to set up three oxygen generation plants in India, of which two will be in Karnataka.

Dharwad firm to manufacture Sputnik V

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
@ Hubballi

DHARWAD-BASED Shilpa Biologicals Private Limited (SBPL) will manufacture Sputnik V vaccine at its production centre in Belur Industrial Area, near Dharwad. It will be among the first production units of the Russian vaccine in India.

SBPL is an arm of Shilpa Medicare, one of the top suppliers of drugs in the country, established in 1987 in Raichur. The firm has a biologics research and development centre in Belur Industrial Area near Dharwad where the Covid-19 vaccine will be manufactured.As of now two vaccines --- Covidshield and Covaxin -- are being used to vaccinate people in the country. Sputnik V will be the third vaccine that will be available for the public.

Sputnik V has been developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of Russia. Indian pharmaceutical company Dr Reddy's Laboratory entered into a partnership with Russian Direct Investment Fund for the vaccine in India.

On behalf of Dr Reddy's Laboratory, SBPL will manufacture the vaccine in Dharwad where it has a huge unit spread over 44,000 sqm.

The research and development Centre of SBPL has latest equipment to produce vaccines, drugs and other medical components.

As per the agreement, both the Indian companies have entered into a three-year definitive agreement for the production of vaccine. Shilpa Biologicals Private Limited will produce 50 million doses of the dual vector Sputnik V vaccine in 12 months. For the vaccine production, Dr Reddy's will transfer Sputnik technology to the SBPL.

The vaccine doses will be marketed and distributed by the Dr Reddy's Laboratory which has distribution rights in India.

'ASHA worker went through an ordeal'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After the matter was raised by fellow ASHA workers and their union, the authorities back in Mysuru assured a bed here. But when she returned, she was yet again denied a bed in the designated Covid-19 hospital.

Finally, after another round of intervention by the union with the Narsipura Taluk Health Officer, the patient was shifted back to the T Narsipur taluk hospital where he was given an oxygen bed. "They talk for hours claiming how smooth hospital admission and reaching medical care is, while showering praise on health workers. But, a worker, who is very much part of the fight against pandemic itself, was put through such an ordeal," said Sandhya, State Treasurer of Karnataka Rajya Samyuktha ASHA Karyakartheyara Sangha.

PRECIOUS COMMODITY

A frontline worker arranges refilled oxygen cylinders at Railway Hospital, in Bengaluru on Monday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

K'taka death toll crosses 22K-mark

ENS @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA'S Covid-19 death toll crossed the 22,000-mark on Monday as 476 more people succumbed to the disease.

With this, a total of 22,313 deaths have been reported in the State since the beginning of the pandemic last year.

The mortality rate, however, remained the same as Sunday at 0.99 per cent. But the same for Bengaluru increased from 0.90 per cent to 0.91 per cent with an addition of 239 deaths, taking the city's Covid-19 death toll to 9,722.

With an addition of 38,603 new Covid-19 cases on Monday, the state's tally increased from 22,03,462 to 22,42,065.

Crime to hide black fungus cases: Min

Mucormycosis new scourge in dists

EXPRES NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MUCORMYCOSIS or black fungus is now a notified disease and hospitals must report it to the government, said Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with experts and officials regarding the disease, Sudhakar said that it was illegal not to report the disease. He said 97 people have been infected with the disease in the state.

"Amphotericin injection is being given for the treatment of this disease. A single patient needs 40-60 vials of this medicine. Centre has approved 1,050 vials out of which 450 vials have been supplied to our State. Also, we have placed an order for 20,000 vials. And, 97 people have been reported with this infection so far and they are being treated at Bowring Hospital on experimental basis," he said.

Meanwhile, an official said that four people have succumbed to the disease.

After Bowring in Bengaluru, black fungus treatment will soon be started at Mysuru Medical College, Shivamogga Institute of Medical Sciences, Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kanachur Institute of Medical Sciences in Mangaluru and Kasturba Medical College in Udupi. Both Covid-19 and black fungus patients are treated free of cost, he said.

"A panel has been set up to find out the exact cause of this disease. Measures will be taken after the expert committee submit its report," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE number of mucormycosis cases are mounting across the state, with districts reporting a rash of post-Covid fungal infections in the past few days. Kolar, Vijayapura, Mangaluru, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Ballari, Shivamogga, Koppal and Tumakuru are seeing a rise in cases.

Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru, MMC in Mysuru, SIMS in Shivamogga, GIMS in Kalaburagi, KIMS in Hubballi and KMC in Manipal have been identified as regional centres to treat mucormycosis.

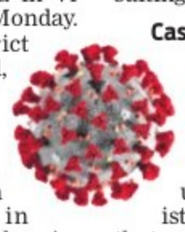
A whopping 26 cases of black fungus were reported in Vijayapura district on Monday. According to the district administration, "In all, 26 black fungus cases were identified in various Covid-19 hospitals -- 15 in BLDE Hospital alone, five in Ayush Hospital, two each in Chowdry and Yashoda hospitals, and one each in Al-Ameen and Ashwini hospitals. All the infected developed mucormycosis after recovering from coronavirus. However, there have been no deaths due to the fungal infection."

Vijayapura DC P Sunil Kumar told TNIE, "A separate ward has been opened in BLDE Hospital to treat people infected with black fungus. I have directed hospitals to treat and take measures as per guidelines." "We are yet to receive drugs for the district hospital, and will wait and see how drugs will be supplied from the government to private hospitals."

Karnataka ENT Hospital and Research Centre in Chitradurga, the lone specialised centre for treating these patients, has been receiving innumerable calls seeking treatment. Many patients are approaching Dr Prahallad and his team for treatment at an affordable rate, compared with Bengaluru.

Dr Prahallad told TNIE that the number of patients with mucormycosis is rising ever since the Covid-19 second wave broke out. Patients with co-morbidities, or who have undergone high-flow oxygen are victims of this infection. Slight negligence may turn fatal, as there are chances of the fungus growing rapidly in the respiratory tract and even reaching the brain, resulting in the death, he said.

Cases up in Kolar



Treating patients is turning into a challenge for doctors in R L Jalappa Hospital, with the number of cases going up to 15. A senior specialist at the hospital told TNIE that said a separate ward has been arranged for patients infected with black fungus. A team of doctors on Monday operated on five patients, with the surgeries taking three to four hours. All the patients are stable and responding to treatment, however, one patient was diagnosed with bilateral blindness and was not stable either, he said.He said medicine to treat the patient is not available.Mohan, whose uncle is being treated in RL Jalappa hospital, managed to arrange a few injections with great difficulty in Bengaluru, and has approached relatives and friends in Chennai and Hyderabad. Pharmacist Jayaraman said he has been getting several calls from patients' families for the injection, but was unable to track the medicine. Kolar DC Dr Selvamani said that post-Covid patients who find their vision blurred should immediately rush to hospital for treatment. Chikballapur DC R Latha said there are no such cases in Chikkaballapura.

A few suspected cases of black fungus were reported in government and private hospitals in Dakshina Kannada district.DHO Dr Kishore Kumar said that two patients with symptomatic infections are admitted at District Wenlock Hospital, besides a few suspect cases in private hospitals.

Dakshina Kannada DC Dr Rajendra K V told TNIE that as of now, four suspect cases are reported in the district. According to sources, one patient is undergoing treatment at a private hospital at Kankanady and five others at another hospital at Deralakatte. However, when TNIE contacted the private hospital nodal officer, he said no cases of black fungus were reported. Sources say that four patients have reportedly died of the infection, which district health officials denied.

Medicine shortage

Medicines needed for treatment, like Liposomal Amphotericin B, is in short supply in Karnataka and also a bit costly. We have requested the Drugs Controller to provide stocks in large quantity, Dr Prahallad said. Patients or their attendants can contact Dr Prahallad over 9342310854 for information on treatment.

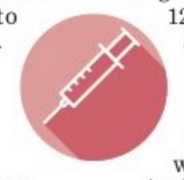
Reports by Mahesh M Goudar @ Vijayapura; G Subhash Chandra @ Chitradurga; V Velayudham @ Kolar; Divya Cutinho @ Mangaluru

'Good antibodies in those who took 2nd Covishield dose after 4 weeks'

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

A study conducted by the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Reseach in Bengaluru, on 140 healthcare workers who had been vaccinated with both doses of Covishield, has shown a good amount of antibodies developing in about 78% of the recipients. "We did a study in March second week, exactly after four weeks of the health care workers receiving both shots of the vaccine. Most of our employees showed a good amount of antibodies generated in them," Dr Manjunath C N, Director of the institute, who led the study, said.

"We know that Covishield is given in two doses — the first initiates an immune response and the second 'booster shot' strengthens it. The participants chosen for the study took their first jab in January and the second dose in the last week of February. Health care workers' comorbidities were also taken into consideration. A month after their second dose, the antibody test was done on these participants," he explained.



"We noticed that the antibodies they had developed after a four-week gap had prevented them from even getting reinfected," he said.

Although the gap of four weeks between two doses was as per the initially announced regimen by the Centre, he said it is absolutely scientific and there is evidence to extend the gap to 12 weeks when antibody generation will be even higher.

There are studies with growing evidence to prove that a 12-week gap can also give a larger antibody response than when vaccine doses are taken at four weeks' interval. A study to compare this will soon be carried out in the hospital. "We intend to do another study soon to check if the antibody levels, when compared to the earlier study, is high or low after a gap of eight weeks in some of the frontline workers who have taken the jab later in February or March," he added.

Doc rues shortage of black fungus antidote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr Honey Ashok, head of ENT, Head and Neck Surgery at Sakra World Hospital said they have seen 11 patients, three of whom had vision loss and one death. "Treatment of black fungus mainly depends on anti-fungal injection called Amphotericin B and also surgical removal of the dead tissues, bone and fungal debris. We have an acute shortage of this life-saving medication," he said.

Dr Girish Anand, Consultant, ENT Surgery, Aster CMI Hospital, said they have come across seven black fungus cases, three of whom suffered vision loss, but there were no deaths.

Narayana Nethralaya saw 24 cases, with 20 of them having vision loss in one eye. Narayana Health City reported 18 patients since April, 5 of whom had vision loss and six deaths.

Dr Ravi Kumar, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Manipal Hospitals, reported two cases who recovered with anti-fungal medication, without vision loss or death. There were no cases reported in four other government hospitals - KC General Hospital, CV Raman Hospital, Jayanagar General Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Disease.

BLACK FUNGUS CASELOAD IN BENGALURU

Hospital name	No. of black fungus cases	Vision loss	Deaths
HCG Cancer Hospital	60	4	0
Minto Eye Hospital	32	15	4
Apollo Hospital	25	4	3
Narayana Nethralaya	24	20	0
Narayana Health	18	5	6
Sakra World Hospital	11	3	1
Aster CMI Hospital	7	3	0
Manipal Hospitals	2	0	0
Total	179	54	14

Ramamurthy Nagar police have arrested a drug peddler who had smuggled ganja in a goods vehicle into Karnataka, seizing 20 kg of the contraband. The accused, Subbareddy, had paid Rs 10,000 and procured about 20 kg of ganja from his contact at Darakonda in Visakhapatnam

Mix of youth, experience for Pinarayi govt 2.0

As per the understanding in LDF, CPM will have 12 members, including CM, and CPI will have 4 members in the cabinet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'PURAM

FRESH faces will dominate the second Pinarayi Vijayan government that will assume office on Thursday. Of the 21 ministers, at least 15 will be fresh faces, said sources who are part of cabinet formation discussions. Of the four ministers finalised by smaller constituents, three are new faces. The CPM is set to bring in eight to 10 fresh faces while CPI is likely to choose fresh faces as their all four nominees.

The LDF state committee that met here on Monday cleared the proposal for 21 ministers, the maximum as per the constitutional clause of 15% of total legislators, for accommodating all LDF constituents. Loktantrik Janata Dal is the only party in the LDF which won't have a member in the cabinet. The front's outside ally RSP(L) also won't be included. Other four single-MLA parties will be inducted on 'sharing the term' basis.

As per the understanding in LDF, CPM will have 12 members, including the chief minister, and CPI will have four members in the cabinet. The KC(M), NCP and JD(S) will have one member each. The CPM nominee will be the speaker and the CPI nominee the deputy speaker. The chief whip post with cabinet rank will be given to KC(M).

According to sources, the CPM's list of ministers which will get approval from the state secretariat and state committee on Tuesday will be dominated by fresh faces, but will carry a right mix of youth and experienced hands. If hints are anything to go by, except Pinarayi and central committee member K K Shailaja, all others in the cabinet could be fresh faces.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan cuts a cake to celebrate LDF's victory during the party's state committee meeting at AKG Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday

DEFIANT LDF TO GO AHEAD WITH GALA SWEARING-IN

T'Puram: Ignoring appeals from different quarters to organise the swearing-in of the Left government in a low-key manner or on a virtual platform, the LDF on Monday decided to go ahead with the plan to hold the event at the specially made venue at the Central Stadium. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at 3.30pm on Thursday. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Pinarayi Vijayan and his team of 20 ministers. The only compromise made by the LDF leadership is to limit the number of invitees to 500 instead of 750 as planned initially. "Five hundred is not a big number considering the speciality of the event.Considering the extraordinary situation, we have minimised the number of invitees," said Pinarayi.

SC allows med examination of Andhra MP at TS hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ VIJAYAWADA

THE Supreme Court on Monday allowed medical examination of rebel YSRC MP K Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju, who was arrested by the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department for his alleged hate speeches, at the Army Hospital at Secunderabad in neighbouring Telangana State. Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju had earlier told the Andhra Pradesh High Court that he was tortured in the police custody.

A division bench of the SC comprising Justice Vineet Saran and Justice BR Gavai passed the order on a Special Leave Petition filed by the MP against the Andhra Pradesh High Court refusing bail.

The bench said the Petitioner will be taken to the Army Hospital, Secunderabad, for examination and the same would be treated as judicial custody. The bench also said Telangana HC will nominate a judicial officer who will be with the petitioner during examination.

The bench also directed the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh State as well as the Registrar General of Telangana HC to carry out its orders. The bench said that the MP's examination will be videographed and the medical reports should be submitted to the court in a sealed cover.

Toll at six now, 121 villages hit by Cyclone Tauktae: Ashoka

Revenue Minister R Ashoka and BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel inspect a cyclone-affected area in Mangaluru on Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

REVENUE Minister R Ashoka said that six people have died after Cyclone Tauktae hit the state's coast and other regions in the past two days. Speaking to media persons here during a visit to inspect the places affected by Tauktae, he said 121 villages in 22 taluks have been affected by the cyclone.

The cyclone damaged 333 houses, 104 boats and 644 electric and telephones poles. It has also destroyed crops on 2.87 lakh hectares of land. A compensation of Rs 5 lakh will be given to those whose houses were fully damaged, Rs 1 lakh for partial damage and Rs 10,000 if flood water entered their homes. As many as 290 relief camps have been set up in the state.

He said that he has instructed the Deputy Commissioners of all districts to prepare an estimate of the losses incurred and take up repair works. He said that there was no dearth of funds to carry out relief works and a total of Rs 106 crore was available with the DCs of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts.

The minister said Dakshina Kannada received 219.5 mm rainfall in May so far against the normal rainfall of 58.77 mm. A total of six relief centres have been set up in the district in which 168 people have taken shelter. He said an NDRF team of 20 members, an SDRF team of 50 members and Home Guards are ready for any emergencies.

'Distribution of monsoon rain to be uniform'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DISTRIBUTION will be uniform and better than previous years, and IMD will release more accurate reports next week, Srinivasa Reddy said. Prof M B Rajegowda, agrometeorologist, who was earlier with University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, said once the cyclonic clouds clear, the South-West monsoon clouds will set in. "This time, pre-monsoon showers have been deficit and we are hoping for better rain during monsoon."

Prof Gowda suggested that farmers can go for long-term crops like paddy, sugarcane, red gram and other pulses. For crops like ragi and paddy, farmers can prolong harvest to 120 days, instead of 90 days, for higher yield and better incomes, he said. However, agriculture department officials, pointing to the increase in sowing area, are apprehensive about flooding as above-normal rainfall is predicted in some places. Reddy suggested that farmers can go in for changes in cropping patterns which can withstand flooding. "Going by the pattern, flooding occurs at some point during the monsoon," he said.

Clarify norms to bury, cremate bodies of Covid victims, Karnataka HC tells state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court asked the state government to clarify about permitting cremation or burial of bodies of those who died of Covid, without obtaining a death certificate.

"The counsel appearing for the applicant, Bharat Punarutthana Trust, has expressed a concern. His submission is that the guidelines issued by the State permit burial of the body of a Covid deceased, without obtaining a death certificate," a special division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Aravind Kumar pointed out, seeking clarification.

According to the revised norms on dead body management in the context of Covid issued by the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services, the hospital or medical officer should issue the death certificate in prescribed format with test report, in case of inter-district or inter-state transportation of Covid-confirmed or -suspected dead bodies.

As there have been requests from the deceased's kin to allow cremation or burial on the land or at the farm house owned by the family, it was stated in the guidelines that it is prudent to swiftly dispose the body in a decentralised manner. Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 24 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the State Executive Committee permits cremation or burial in the context of Covid-19 on the land/farm house owned by the family, said in the guidelines. However, there was no clarity on mandating death certificate for cremation or burial of bodies in any place other than government or BBMP crematoriums or burial grounds.

Meanwhile, Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadagi and Additional Advocate General R Subramanya submitted that they will look into the matter and respond on May 20, 2021, the next date of hearing.

EXPRESS READ

Man hacks Covid-positive brother to death

Chikkamagaluru: A man allegedly killed his Covid-positive brother at Kamabalagadde in Marasanige village limits of Mudigere taluk on Saturday night. Parswanath had admitted his brother Mahaveer to a hospital. After the treatment was done, he was brought back home. On Saturday, Parswanath came back home to find his brother sleeping and allegedly hacked him to death. Police visited the spot and examined the circumstances that led to the incident. They suspect land issues might be the motive. ENS

Alert loco pilot helps cops solve murder in Bengaluru

ENS @ Bengaluru

AN alert loco pilot has helped the police solve a murder case. Cracking the murder within 24 hours, the police arrested the wife of the victim and two others.

On Saturday evening, the loco pilot of Mysuru-Kachiguda Express spotted a man's body on the tracks near Kasturi Nagar and halted the train about 40 feet away from the body. He reported the matter to his superiors and the Baiyappanahalli railway police rushed to the spot.

"It was clear the killers wanted to make it look like a suicide. The killers were traced within 24 hours after the murder was reported," SP (Railways) Siri Gowri D R said. The deceased Lokanath (48), is a resident of Shaktinagar. Police arrested his wife Yashoda (40), a domestic help, her friend Muniraju M (33), and Prabhu P (27), a painter.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.

Notice Inviting Tenders (E- Tender Process)

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No. and Description of Work / Material	Due date & time for Submission of e-Tender
1	CE /MECHANICAL / COAL	COAL (Ship) – 82 Time chartering of one self trimming supramax geared vessel with the lay days from 30th June 2021 to 15th July 2021	17.06.2021 upto 15.30 hours

The tender Specification can be down loaded from TANGEDCO website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app at free of cost. Tender will be opened Through the NIC portal https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/1547/Tender/2021 CHIEF ENGINEER/MECHANICAL/COAL

TELANGANA FOODS

IDA : NACHARAM : HYDERABAD - 500 076. Phone No. 27152207, 08 & 09

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

TF/GG/Tenders/348/RM&Vitamins/2021-22 Dt.17-05-2021

Telangana Foods Invites Tenders for procurement of 1kg Balamrutham Pouches, Calcium Carbonate, Ferrous Sulphate, thread Cones and supply of man power at Telangana Foods of Security, High Skilled, Skilled & un Skilled to work in different sections. For details please visit website:https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in and website: https://tfoods.telangana.gov.in from 18-05-2021 at 11.00 AM onwards. Bids submission closing date is 24-05-2021 at 5.00 PM.

DIPR R.O. No. : 1795-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt.17-05-2021 Sd/- Managing Director

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Office of the Superintending Engineer (El) MESCOM, O & M Circle,

Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102. Ph: 0820-2525040, 2535040 E-mail : seeudupi16@gmail.com

CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. :SEE/UDP/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-78/2021-22/999 Date: 13.05.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Udupi invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the following services in Udupi Circle.

Sl No.	Work Description	Tender Enquiry No.
1	Maintenance of 33KV Over Head/UG Cable Lines in Udupi Division Jurisdiction	MESCOM/SEE/UDP/EE(O)/2021-22/997
2	Maintenance of 33KV Over Head/UG Cable Lines in Kundapura Division Jurisdiction	MESCOM/SEE/UDP/EE(O)/2021-22/998

The bids will be received through Electronic (E-tendering) mode only. The detailed tender notification information can be obtained by logging on to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.05.2021. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Udupi.

For Power Related Complaint & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕಾರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೋಜಣಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ದೂ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 0836–2748522

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : cfwpsdwd@aranya.gov.in

ಸಂ: ಎ2/ಬಿಜೆಟಿ/ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2021–22 ಧಾರವಾಡ ದಿನಾಂಕ:13–05–2021

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ /2021–22 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕಾರ್ಯಯೋಜನೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸಕ್ತ 2021–22ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

1) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಬರ್ಚಿ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 7,50,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 18,750=00.
2) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಭಗವತಿ, ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 10,00,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 25,000=00.
3) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 12,50,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 31,250=00.
4) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 47,00,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 1,17,500=00.
5) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜಗಲಬೇಟ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 27,00,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 67,500=00.
6) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಜೋಯಿಡಾ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 21,50,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 53,750=00.
7) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸಾಂಬ್ರಾಣಿ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 16,00,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 40,000=00.
8) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ತಿನ್ನೈಘಾಟ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 7,50,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 18,750=00.
9) ಹಳಿಯಾಳ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿರ್ನೋಲಿ ವಲಯದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ವೆಂಟರಿ ಪ್ಲಾಟುಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ, ದತ್ತಾಂಶ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಿ, ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 12,50,000=00 ಇಎಂಡಿ ಹಣ (2.5%) ರೂ. 31,250=00.

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–05–2021ರ ತನಕ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24–05–2021ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3:30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26–05–2021 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3:45 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಆ ದಿವಸವು ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಸರಕಾರ ರಜೆ ಎಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಏನಾದರೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/119/2021–22

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, ANGUL :AT: TALCHER

At- Baghuabole, Po.- Hatatota, Talcher, Dist.- Angul, Pin- 759100
(Ph. No./ Fax - 06760-240762, E-mail : eerwssang@gmail.com)

National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement
Bid Identification No. 02/EE/RWSS/ANGUL/2021-22 Dt. 07.05.2021 (JJM)

O-202: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at:Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/ Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

	Nature of Work :	Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.
1.	No. of Tenders	: 1 No.
2.	Tender Paper Cost	: Rs. 10,000.00
3.	Value of work	: Rs. 104.39 Lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	: "B" & "A" Class
5.	Date & time of availability of bid document in portal	: 15.05.2021 at 13.00 hours to 24.05.2021 upto 17.00 hours
6.	Date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 20.05.2021 upto 17.00 hours
7.	Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document	: 25.05.2021 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at:Talcher
8.	Time of completion	: 10 (Ten) Calendar Months

9. The bidders have to participate in online biding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher

OIPR- 25019/11/0003/2122

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on Friday 28-05-2021 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. This would continue till the auction process is over.

ARAKALGUD 08175-220780 FEDGL00360002760, 0002820, 0002821, 0002845, 0002933, 000294, 0002944, 0002940, 0002942, 0002924, 0002919, 0002925, 0002879, 0002881, 0002882, 000291, 0002897, 0003044, 0004987, 0005033, 0005022, 0005072 B H Road 8162277793 FEDGL01030002960 BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 8041900282 FEDGL0011 0005098, 0005082, 0005138, 0005131, 0005133, 0005121, 0005124, 0005126, 0005184, 0005168, 0005156, 0005155, 0006359, 0006432, 0006612, 0006718, 0006724, 0006828, , 0006883 Belgaum 0831-4201487 FEDGL01360000796, 0000784, 0000791, 0000802, 0000804, 0000805, 0001162, 0001737 BELUR 8177222100 FEDGL01590003871, 0003853, 0003836, 0003833, 0003838, 0003835, 0003843, 0003850, 0003932, 000391, 0003922, 0003917, 0003883, 0003884, 0003887, 0003889, 0003908, 0003896, 0003905, 0003982, 0003977, 0003996, 0003969, 0003944, 0003946, 0003945, 0003954, 0003959, 0003957, 0003961, 0004115, 0004464 BOMMANAHALLI 8041500417 FEDGL00140003809, 0003832, 0003851, 0003858, 0004694, 0004852, 0004862, 0004970 BTM LAYOUT 080-41312231 FEDGL00030002749, 0002771, 0003039, 0003014, 0003133, 0003707, 0003737 Byadgi 8375229022 FEDGL00510001880 , 0001945, 0001932, 0001935, 0001922, 0001926, 0001966, , 0002084, 0002423, 0003740, 0003755, 0003817, 0003864, Caltex Circle 8162277972FEDGL01020002217, 0002190, 0003863, 000396, 0004001 Car Street Bellary 8392276005 FEDGL00920000854, 0000861, 0001272, 0001409, , 0001451, 0001458, 0001484 CHANNAPATNA 8027256046 FEDGL0176 0007125, 0007241, 0007219, 0007206, 0007178, 0007203, 0007182, 0007194, 0007188, 0007311, 0007321, 0007315, 0007268, 0007255, 0007266, 0008719, 0010003, 0010279, 0010313, 0010307, 0010325, 0010324, 0010394, 0010438 CHENRAYAPATNA 8176252477 FEDGL01580009029, 0008997, 0009000, 0008992, 0009009, 0009118, 0009125, 0009102, 0009096, 0009097, 0009107, 0009105, 0009108, 0009100, 0009047, 0009090, 0009093, 0009072, 0009069, 0009218, 0009220, 0009210, 0009189, 0009140, 0009145, 0009130, 0009133, 0009136, 0009178, 0009146, 0009157, 0009371, 0011640, 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Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 27-05-2021 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated 18-05-2021
Place : Bangalore

For, sdl- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

EDITORIAL

Our untrained minds are moving and restless, hard to control and manage. The disciplined mind will keep our lives balanced, make work easier and develop and nurture reason to govern our actions

Ajahn Chah

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CYCLONE TESTS ALREADY BATTERED INDIA'S RESILIENCE

If the second wave of the pandemic was not enough of a battering, Cyclone Tauktae has come as a parallel instrument of torture for the western Indian coastline. Mumbai is under a sheet of heavy rains and mostly underwater. All along from Kerala to Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and now charging towards Gujarat at a speed of 114-120 kmph. Nearly 1,50,000 people had to be evacuated to safe zones before the cyclone hit Porbandar. Along its path, there are uprooted trees and homes, disrupted power supply and train services, and over a dozen dead already. Even the contiguous parts of Rajasthan are expected to see heavy rainfall. The devastation of Cyclone Tauktae has stretched local authorities even further. Fighting a vicious pandemic is new, cyclones are not—but both together?

The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal have been heating up due to climate change. The intensity of Tauktae is directly related to the Arabian Sea becoming a warm pool, at 30-31 degree Celsius. The frequency of cyclones we are witnessing in the eastern and western coasts can be correlated. Only a year ago, during the first wave of SARS-CoV-2, West Bengal was battered by Amphan, formed over the Bay. Right after that Cyclone Nisarga devastated Maharashtra, followed by Nivar that hit Puducherry. In the last four years, pre-monsoon cyclones over the Arabian Sea have become common. Can pandemics and cyclones be averted? If experts are to be believed, yes. Just like lifestyle diseases can be averted, with corrective and by adopting better ways of living, with better planning, both can be largely mitigated. India can do its bit to save its citizens, so can the world. If we're to not just survive, but also thrive. The last may seem a remote possibility now, when firefighting is all that we're engaged in.

IRRESPONSIBLE BORDER BLOCK

A few days ago, several Covid-19 patients from Andhra Pradesh went through a living nightmare at the border with Telangana. Of them, two unfortunately died. Even though the patients were in a critical stage, the Telangana police did not allow them to continue their journey to Hyderabad for better medical treatment. The police relented only after the High Court, for the second time, rapped the government on its knuckles for its inhuman act. Earlier too, before the lockdown was imposed, the government tried a similar misadventure and burnt its fingers. The stopping of the ambulances throws up several questions of moral, ethical, legal and human dimensions. The High Court rightly asked the government as to who had given it the authority to deny permission to ambulances. The government gave the green signal only late in the night though the HC issued the direction to this effect in the afternoon itself.

But one has to look at the other side of the issue too. Telangana's hospitals are filling up fast. Nearly 40% of the beds have been occupied by patients from other states. The government defended its decision, quoting restrictions imposed by Delhi and Maharashtra on the entry of patients into their respective state/UT. But the court rightfully differentiated between critically ill patients and Covid-19 positive people and insisted that the former should be allowed free passage, no matter which state they hail from. The government argued that they were allowing only those who had e-passes but this did not cut any ice with the court. If patients from Andhra are rushing to Hyderabad, it is because the latter is known for medical tourism. That is why even patients from as far as Tirupati rush to Hyderabad though Chennai is nearer. KCR keeps referring to Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb in Hyderabad, meaning the fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultural ethos in the cosmopolitan city. Though the state's argument that it should take care of its subjects first has merit, yet in these days of national calamity, it should strike a delicate balance between attending to people in Telangana and extending a compassionate hand to patients from elsewhere.

What should be New Delhi's policy towards democratic struggles in neighbouring countries? Can we remain silent when institutions slowly face extinction?

DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR AND INDIA'S DILEMMA

V SURYANARAYAN

Senior Professor (Retd.), Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras

AMIT BANDRE

A matter of great concern for India since Independence has been the future of Burma, a country with which it shares land and maritime boundaries. Three years before Independence, India's ambassador-historian Sardar K M Panikkar had underlined the strategic significance of Burma in the following words: "The defence of Burma is, in fact, the defence of India and it is India's primary concern, no less than Burma's, to see that its frontiers remain inviolate. In fact, no responsibility should be considered too heavy for India when it comes to the question of defending Burma."

In the early years of Independence, Jawaharlal Nehru played a significant role in bolstering Burma politically and militarily. In fact, like Indonesia, Burma and its leadership were very close to New Delhi. Professor Werner Levi, the distinguished political scientist, even remarked that Burma was India's satellite.

Two snapshots would reveal how close Nehru was to the leaders of Burma. January 1948. It was an extremely cold winter. General Aung San came to New Delhi on his way to London to finalise the terms of the transfer of power. Seeing him clad in cotton suits, Nehru told Aung San that London would be extremely cold and he should have woollen suits. He took his woollen overcoat from the wardrobe and put it around Aung San. He also arranged two woollen suits to be made and gave them to him. Aung San Suu Kyi, delivering the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture in New Delhi in November 1994, reminisced about this incident to narrate the close camaraderie between her father and Nehru and how the Burmese nationalists always looked to him for guidance and support.

Soon after its independence, Burma was plunged into a civil war. The assassination of Aung San was followed by armed revolts led by the communists, Kachins and Karens. Even the security of Rangoon was threatened by rebel forces. Indian concern was naturally sharpened with the emergence of the People's Republic of China in 1949, which shared common borders with both India and Burma. Nehru persuaded the Commonwealth countries to provide military and economic aid to Burma. Indian assistance encompassed both military and economic assistance and also the bolstering of the U Nu regime. It aimed to have a friendly, non-aligned and non-communist buffer between India and China. It was also to prevent the destabilisation of north-east India, where the Nagas, Mizos, and Meities straddle the India-Burma border.

India's principled stance continued for many years. But during the Rajiv Gandhi era, with J N Dixit as the foreign secretary, New Delhi began to get closer to the military regime. The change was dictated by strategic considerations. The rebels in the Northeast—Nagas and Mizos in particular—were supported by China with arms and they used Burmese territory to go to China. The military brass felt that if we got the Burmese army's support, we would be able to contain the threat posed by the rebels. There had been several occasions when the Indian Army, in hot pursuit, entered Burmese territory to carry out their fight against the rebels. The result was the betrayal of the democratic forces in Myanmar. In the course of the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial lecture, Suu Kyi, more in sorrow than in anger, expressed her anguish over India letting them down. To quote: "I was saddened to feel that we had drawn away from India, or rather that India has drawn away from us, during our very difficult days, but I always had faith in the lasting friendship between our peoples". She emphasised "friendship between peoples", not friendship between governments because, she added, "governments come and go, and that is what democracy is all about". A good friend of mine, who retired as secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, was present in the meeting. He told me that he felt ashamed when Suu Kyi expressed her innermost feelings about GoI's changed attitude.

Myanmar is now sitting on the top of a volcano. According to a recent report of the International Crisis Group, Myanmar "is edging towards a state collapse". The Report adds the army has lost both "trust and confidence". The political, social and economic turmoil is getting worse and unless the global community intervenes in a big way, refugees would start pouring into neighbouring countries. Media reports suggest there is every possibility that the ethnic rebels, for tactical reasons, may join forces with democratic forces.

Did not the dictatorial regimes in Indonesia and the Philippines crumble before the might of the people? India should not be caught unprepared, a fate that befell ASEAN governments when the detested regimes of Marcos and Suharto were flung into the dustbin of history

The Myanmar Army is making exaggerated claims that it is consolidating power and the protests are fizzling out. On March 7, the Armed Forces Day, the military held a massive parade of troops and weapons. Elsewhere they were shooting down unarmed civilians, killing 158, including 14 children. All neighbouring countries—China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Laos—as also Pakistan, Russia, and Vietnam sent their representatives to witness the parade.

In its official statements, the GoI has stated it would work for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar. But it sounds hollow in the context of India's participation in the military parade on March 6, which implies providing legitimacy to the military establishment. The need of the hour is for New Delhi to mobilise international support for the restoration of democracy, raise the issue in the UN Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council; work for an arms embargo to the military; impose economic sanctions on military-owned business interests, and send special delegations to various countries to explain the true nature of the military regime. These suggestions are unlikely to find favour with the powers that be in New Delhi. What is more, the present military regime could count on China's strong support.

While advocating a pro-activist policy towards Myanmar, all sections of public opinion—media, trade unions, human rights organizations and political parties—should come together and express their solidarity with Suu Kyi and the voiceless people of Myanmar. Her stirring lecture, which I have referred to earlier, has raised the basic question: What should be India's policy towards democratic struggles in neighbouring countries? Can we remain silent when democratic institutions are slowly facing extinction? We cannot adopt a policy of cynicism and opportunism as China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and few member states of ASEAN are pursuing today.

Pro-democracy forces in different parts of the world have occasionally suffered reverses. But the logic of history and the justness of the cause would surely bring about a turn for the better. Did not the dictatorial regimes in the Philippines and Indonesia crumble before the combined might of the people? India should not be caught utterly unprepared, a fate that befell the ASEAN governments when the detested regimes of Marcos and Suharto were flung into the dustbin of history.

Suu Kyi pointed out in the Joyce Memorial Lecture a few years ago: "The dream of a society ruled by loving kindness, reason and justice is a dream as old as civilised man. Does it have to be an impossible dream? Karl Popper, explaining his abiding optimism in so troubled a world as ours, said that darkness had always been there, but the light was new. Because it is new, it has to be tended with love and diligence."

(suryageeth@gmail.com)

INFLATION MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES REMAIN

TULSI JAYAKUMAR

Professor, Economics and Chairperson, Family Managed Business at Bhavans SPJIMR

The task of managing inflation is difficult during the best of times. In a supply-constrained economy as the one India faces today, with almost all states going through a lockdown, the task can be expected to be even more difficult. Yet the latest inflation numbers, released on May 12, seem to suggest that the headline inflation is well within the inflation tolerance band that the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, has set out for itself. After hovering close to the upper tolerance limit of 6% for March 2021 (at 5.52%), the April 2021 numbers, with a reduced headline inflation of 4.29%, are a welcome change. Yet, a careful perusal of the inflation and associated numbers shows multiple fault lines.

The first concern is qualitative and has to do with how one assesses such tempering of inflation. With food and beverages carrying a weight of 45.85 in the overall Consumer Price Index (Combined), the fate of inflation gets determined primarily through this component. Food inflation has been an important driver of inflation for the past several years. However, while the dozen components constituting food inflation, in the aggregate, have moved towards some taming, it is the individual trends that remain worrisome. More specifically, a reduction in food inflation from 5.24% in March 2021 to 2.66% in April 2021 hides certain anomalies that point to poor inflation management and an inability to address the structural issues at a granular level. Thus, the inflation in oils and fats (weight = 3.56), which has remained high throughout the last six months (especially in the Calendar Year 2021), has increased from 24.92% to 25.91% between March to April 2021. Such inflation has risen from 20.05% in December 2020 to 25.91% for April 2021. However, inflation in vegetables has not only been negative (and hence actually constituting deflation), but such deflation has also increased over the period. From a -4.83% inflation for vegetables in March 2021, the inflation figure for vegetables has grown to -14.18% in April 2021. Such deflationary trends are witnessed for vegetables throughout the calendar year so far. Besides vegetables, cereals, sugar and confectionery have also demonstrated negative trends, while meat and fish, eggs, pulses and non-alcoholic beverages have all shown very high positive upward trends.

The rural-urban divide with respect to these trends is far starker. In April 2021, inflation in oils and fats in rural areas was 27.79% compared to 22.64% in urban India. Vegetable deflation at -16.47% in rural India was far greater than the -10.11% deflation in urban India. The overall rural food inflation was at 1.96% compared to 3.78% urban inflation.

The divergence in the price trends indicates all is not well with food inflation management. On the one hand, proteins are becoming more expensive, putting them out of reach of most Indian consumers, already reeling under job cuts and unemployment; on the other hand, small farmers and cultivators of vegetables may not get the right deal for their products. Such divergences are seen in the case of the non-food components as well. Thus, inflation in the fuel and light and health components have increased over March-April 2021. The rural-urban divide in inflationary trends also masks the sizeable burden placed on rural areas by inflation in the case of essentials such as oils and fats.

On the one hand, proteins are becoming more expensive, putting them out of reach of most Indian consumers, already reeling under job cuts due to the Covid lockdown; on the other hand, small farmers and cultivators of vegetables may not get the right deal for their products

A second concern is to do with the differential performance of states with regard to inflation on the one hand and a large urban-rural divide on the other. We again see huge discrepancies among states, with nine of the 22 states exhibiting greater than the 6% tolerance band in March 2021. Southern states, especially Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, have very high inflation rates at 8.88% and 7.7%, while northern states such as Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been able to keep inflation rates well within control in the 3-4% band. Such high differentials may also be explained by the high inflation in transportation at 11.04%, which may prevent price equalisation across states.

A final concern has to do with managing inflationary expectations. It is such expectations that are crucial to actual inflation in the next period. To understand this, if we all expect prices of oil to rise, we will go out and buy oil today, causing oil prices to rise. Despite the CPI headline inflation being well within the inflation tolerance band of 2-6%, household inflationary expectations data for the period of May 2020 to March 2021 reveals that the proportion of respondents who believe that prices will increase at either the same rate or a greater rate one year ahead is above 80% in March 2021. Moreover, the mean and median one-year ahead as well as the three months-ahead (short-term) inflationary expectations are above 10%—well above the RBI's inflation tolerance band, indicating that people expect inflation to rise, both in the short and medium term.

In sum, while the reduction in headline inflation is good, inflation management would need to go beyond just the aggregate numbers. A greater attention to managing both inflation and inflationary expectations, both at an aggregate and granular level, is the need of the hour.

(Views are personal)

(tulsi.jayakumar@spjimr.org)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Inopportune resignation

Whatever may be the reason, the resignation of Shahid Jameel as the chief of the Centre's Covid advisory group is inopportune. The prime minister should look into and initiate steps to correct the circumstances that led to such a development.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Boost morale of medicos

Though it is not known what led to Jameel's sudden resignation, it's clear it must be a part of the growing dissent among the scientific community that was taken for granted prior to the second wave. The government needs to initiate measures to boost the morale of the medical fraternity.

Bijumon P N, Idukki

Win-win situation

This is with reference to *Hiring med students to battle Covid* (May 17). The Chennai Corporation's decision to hire final-year MBBS students is a win-win for both students and the government. They get work experience and a stipend, while the government is able to ease the pressure on the healthcare system a little.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Ensure good remuneration

It is only appropriate that senior medical students are recruited for Covid duty as it is a part of the profession they are aiming for. But it is natural for them to be apprehensive of the risks involved. The states must ensure they get good living conditions and remuneration.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Performance disappointing

This is with reference to *Act like a leader, axe sycophants and saboteurs* (May 16). The article makes a good point. People voted for PM Narendra Modi believing he would do a good job, but his performance has been disappointing. Though he seems to be a good man wanting to make a difference, there seems to be a strong inner circle stopping him.

Anantha Padmanabha, email

People's difficulties

The PM seems completely unconcerned about the difficulties people are facing. The sharp drop in bank deposit rates has seriously affected retirees and senior citizens. The daily increase in fuel prices is ridiculous. Even the vaccination drive does not seem to be planned properly.

B G Baliga, Thrissur

Shared Covid responsibility

The article makes it seem like the sole responsibility of the second wave is on Modi and the state governments and the officials under them have no role to play, which is false. It also neglects to take into account the responsibility of the people to practice Covid safety protocol, which many are flouting regularly. I only blame Modi for encouraging people to attend election rallies and not discouraging the Kumbh Mela. For everything else, the responsibility is shared between the Centre, states and the citizens.

P Rajesh, Kannur

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Kaushik Basu @kaushikcbasu
Almost all Indians, certainly all who care for the country, are waiting for 2024 the way Indians once waited for 1947

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
These controversies are absurd. If I wish on Eid, that's Muslim appeasement; if I hail Parshurama Jayanti, I'm a closet Sanghi. Can't individuals think for themselves?

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
This 2-DG drug developed by DRDO & DRL is a perfect example of India's scientific prowess and a milestone in the efforts towards self-reliance

Covishield blood clot risk minuscule: Centre

Report says 0.61 in a million may experience adverse effect after this vaccine, no such occurrence post Covaxin

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE risk of blood clot formation, that could be life-threatening in some cases, following administration of Covid-19 vaccine Covishield, has been found to be 0.61 cases per million in the Indian population. The government calls it "minuscule".

The data is based on an in-depth case review of 498 — out of 700 serious and severe events — following the administration of over 7.5 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses in India till April 3, by the National Adverse Event Following Immunisation Committee. A total of 26 thromboembolic events were found out of these 498 cases.

The committee has submitted its report to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. "AEFI data in India showed there is a very minuscule but definitive risk of thromboembolic events (formation of a clot in a blood vessel that might break loose and be carried by the blood stream to plug another vessel)," said the ministry in a statement.

It, however, did not reveal how many people died due to this complication in India. There were no potential thromboembolic events reported following administration of Covaxin, the analysis has shown.

The reporting rate of these events in India is around 0.61 per million doses, which is much lower than the four cases per million reported by the UK's Medical and Health Regulatory Authority, while Germany has reported 10 per million doses, the government said.

Till April 3, 7,54,35,381 vaccine doses had been administered In India — 6,86,50,819 Covishield and 67,84,562 Covaxin. Of these, 65,944,106 were first doses and 9,491,275 second. Since the vaccination drive started, more than 23,000 adverse events were reported through the CoWIN platform, from 684 of the 753 districts in India. Of these, only 700 cases or 9.3 cases per million doses administered were reported to be of a serious and severe nature, says the committee.

The panel has underscored that thromboembolic events keep occurring in the general population as background and scientific literature suggests that this risk is almost 70 per cent less in persons of South and South East Asian descent in comparison to those from European descent.

The government, however, insisted that Covishield continues to have a definite positive benefit risk profile with tremendous potential to prevent infections and reduce deaths due to Covid-19. The health ministry said it is continuously monitoring the safety of vaccines and promoting reporting of suspected adverse events.

This woman captures the moment of receiving her first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, in Guwahati on Monday | PTI

Post vax, some signs of thromboembolic events

Breathlessness; Pain in chest; Pain in limbs or pain on pressing limbs or swelling in limbs; Multiple, pinhead size red spots or bruising of skin in an area beyond injection site; Persistent abdominal pain with or without vomiting; Seizure in the absence of previous history of seizures

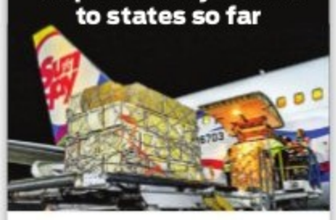
INDIA'S COVID TRACKER

35,16,997
ACTIVE CASES

DECLINE OF **1,01,461 CASES** IN THE ACTIVE CASELOAD IN 24 HOURS

75.04%
of total active cases are in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kwerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh

Equipment and drugs delivered or dispatched by Centre to states so far



11,058
oxygen concentrators

19 OXYGEN GENERATION PLANTS

13,496
oxygen cylinders

5.3L REMDESIVIR VIALS

7,365
ventilators/Bi PAP

*Health ministry data

Plasma therapy no more part of Covid treatment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN an important move, the Centre has dropped Convalescent plasma therapy from the national treatment protocol for Covid-19 as a suggested treatment option for coronavirus patients, days after evidence from a recovery trial in the US showed that it offered no benefit.

The guidelines have been issued by the ICMR and AIIMS, Delhi joint monitoring group under the Union ministry of health and family welfare.

The off-label use of convalescent plasma, despite evidence earlier that it offered no benefit to Covid-19 patients, has been part of India's coronavirus treatment guideline as an investigational therapy.

It has often led to relatives of serious Covid-19 patients scrambling for plasma, sometimes even by paying exorbitantly, even though under the existing norms it cannot be sold and purchased, in the hope of saving the sick in the absence of any definitive treatment for the disease.

The randomised evaluation of Covid-19 therapy (recovery) trial, the results of which were published in The Lancet on Friday, said that the use of plasma therapy on hospitalised Covid patients does not improve survival rate or any other pre-specified clinical outcomes.

Earlier, a trial by the ICMR too, in September last year, had shown that the therapy does not benefit either in reducing mortality or arresting progression of the disease. The trial, called PLACID, was carried out in 39 hospitals across 14 states and Union Territories.

The government however had not dropped this investigation therapy from the Covid-19 treatment protocol, despite suggestions by researchers and scientists that its rampant use may be leading to unwanted mutation in SARS-CoV-2.

Impartiality in picking ECI members, a perennial demand

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

SEVERAL reform committees and the Law Commission recommended in the past that there is a need for more impartiality in the appointment of members of the Election Commission of India.

The matter regains importance following a petition in the Supreme Court seeking an independent committee to appoint members of the poll panel. Eight-phase Assembly polls in Bengal amid appeals to club the last two or three together, which went in vain, makes this matter releavnt again.

In 1975, the Justice Tarkunde Committee (appointed by 'Citizens for Democracy' on the suggestion of Sri Jayaprakash Narayan) recommended that the members of ECI should be appointed by the President on the advice of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

The Committee on Electoral Reforms, under the chairmanship of Law Minister Dinesh Goswami, appointed by the Central Government, made several recommendations on electoral reforms in 1990. The Goswami Committee recommended effective consultation with neutral authorities like Chief Justice of India and Leader of the Opposition for appointments in the ECI.

This committee said that the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner should be made by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and Leader of the Opposition (in case no Leader of the Opposition is available, leader of the largest opposition group in Lok Sabha should be consulted).

It also said the consultation process should have a statutory backing and appointment of the other two Election Commissioners should be made in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Leader of the Opposition (in case the Leader of the opposition is not available, the consultation should be with the leader of the largest opposition group in the Lok Sabha) and the Chief Election Commissioner.

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission, in its fourth report in January, 2007, recommended a neutral and independent body to recommend names for the ECI.

Plea in SC seeking ECI appointment revision

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) moved Supreme Court on Monday, seeking an independent selection committee to appoint members of the Election Commission of India (ECI). Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing ADR, said the present process of appointment by the executive is incompatible with the Constitution. "To ensure the purity of the election process it was thought that the responsibility to hold free and fair elections should be entrusted to an independent body insulated from political and/or executive interference."

VIRUS ACTIVE

Marathwada concern for Maharashtra on long road to recovery

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

LOCKDOWN has been able to bring down Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra, but the rural belt, particularly Marathwada, is still witnessing a high number of positivity and mortality in the state.

According to the Maharashtra health department, the high mortality is reported in Nanded, Latur and Osmanabad with 5.17%, 2.54% and 2.39% respectively against the state's average of 1.32%.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pointed out that Covid is spreading in rural areas, therefore the state and its authorities should be alert to tackle the emerging situation.

"The highest 39.50% positivity rate is reported in Ahmednagar, followed by 37.91% in Buldhana, 34.13% in Parbhani against the state average of 22.57% in the May 5-11 period," stated the report.

Rural districts of Buldhana, Ahmednagar and Parbhani have been witnessing the highest positivity for last three weeks where the positivity rate is between 30 and 39%. The health department report also indicates that in the next week starting May 23, more positive cases are likely to be reported in Beed in Latur, Parbhani, Nanded and Osmanabad districts in the Marathwada region of the state.

Maharashtra's mortality rate is 1.52% against a national average of 1.10% and global average of 2.07%. Earlier Maharashtra's mortality was higher than other states, but Punjab's mortality rate is now 2.39% and that of Sikkim 1.80% and of Delhi 1.54 %.

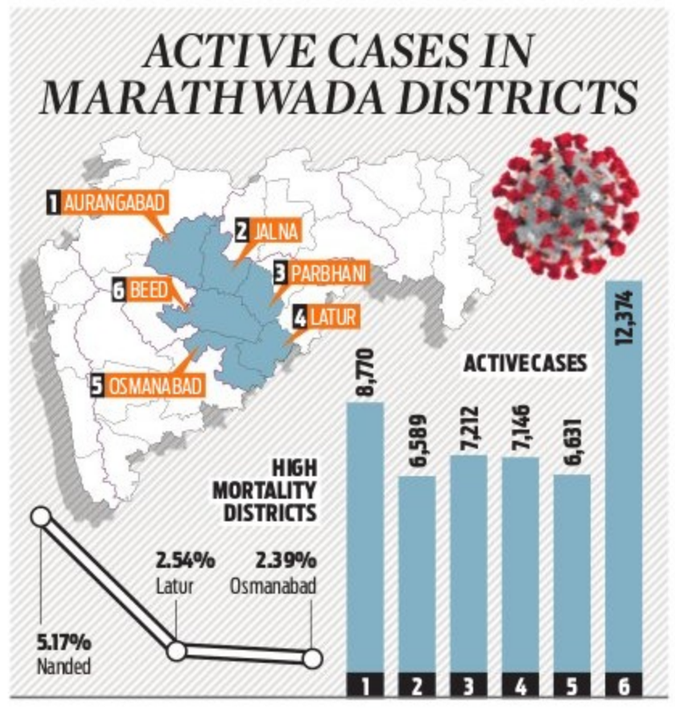
Health Minister Rajesh Tope said positive cases are down in 15 districts, but in the rest of the 19 districts, the situation is a cause for concern. "Big cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur are showing a major drop in positive cases and the north and western Maharashtra too is recovering. Once the positive cases start dropping in Marathwada, then the Covid plateau will start bending in a big way," Tope said.

Big cities are showing a major drop in cases, north and west Maharashtra too is recovering. Once cases start dropping in Marathwada, then the Covid plateau will start bending in a big way
Rajesh Tope, health min

On April 24, Maharashtra reported 67,160 cases while on May 15, these cases came down to 34,884, which is a drastic recovery, though in a lockdown condition. "The result of people seriously observing the lockdown restrictions is clearly visible in Mumbai city. Rural areas are taking time. Despite the restrictions, people still arrange large weddings and other social functions which contribute to the spread of the virus," said a senior health official.

Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday addressed over 15,000 physicians and asked them to take care of the home quarantine patients by giving them advice and medication. He said the approach to tackle the situation has to be inclusive.

ACTIVE CASES IN MARATHWADA DISTRICTS



'Ram Bharose' for villages, says Allahabad High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

THE Allahabad High Court has made some embarrassing comments for the Uttar Pradesh government, regarding management of the Covid-19 pandemic and condition of medical facilities in the state.

Referring to an incident of a victim's body being disposed of as an unidentified one, the bench of Justices Siddhartha Varma and Ajit Kumar said the people of the state have been left 'Ram Bharose', which means at the mercy of gods.

"If this is the state of affairs of treatment at a medical college in the city like Meerut, then the entire medical system of the state pertaining to the smaller cities and villages can only be taken to be like a famous Hindi saying 'Ram Bharose'," said the bench.

Uttar Pradesh has seen an alarming rise in cases and deaths after conducting panchayat elections late last month. The sight of dead bodies floating in the river also raised eyebrows and caused much hue and cry in the last few days.

Plea in SC against arrests over poster

New Delhi: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking quashing of FIRs registered against at least 24 persons for putting up posters criticising the Centre's Covid vaccination policy. The petition filed by advocate Pradeep Kumar Yadav cited the right to freedom of speech and urged the court that the Delhi Police be directed not to register FIRs or act against those who allegedly put up the posters across the national capital over the past few days.

PM-CARES ventilators come under Cong flak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TAKING a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over some states complaining about faulty ventilators being provided to them under the PM-CARES Fund, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the PM has failed to do his job.

"There's a lot common between PM-CARES ventilator and the PM himself: too much false PR, don't do their respective jobs, nowhere in sight when needed," said Gandhi.

In the past few days, Punjab, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have complained that the ventilators provided under PM-CARES Fund have been faulty and are not functioning properly.

"While the Government of India has failed not just in managing the Covid crisis but also in standing with the people. There are numerous individual stories of strength and altruism every day," he said on Twitter.

Lauding individuals who are helping out people in this crisis, Rahul said: "Immense gratitude to these heroes dedicated to serving others and showing the world what India truly stands for."

Meanwhile, the Congress also targeted the Centre over the resignation of noted virologist Shahid Jameel from INSACOG, the government panel that conducts research on coronavirus. The Congress alleged there is no place for professionals under this dispensation. "The resignation of Dr Shahid Jameel, one of India's best virologists, is really sad. Modi *Sarkar* has no place for professionals who can speak their mind freely without fear or favour," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

Vaccination paid rich dividends: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that vaccination of frontline warriors paid rich dividends during the second wave of the pandemic. Stating that vaccines ensured safety of most of the doctors, he said 90 per cent of healthcare professionals have at least got the first dose. The PM was interacting with a group of doctors from across the country.

Centre to increase daily test numbers

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday said that India's Covid-19 testing capacity will be raised to 45 lakh a day from the current 25 lakh. The decision has been taken in the wake of the pandemic engulfing rural and semi-urban areas of the country. Of the 25 lakh tests done per day at the moment, 13 lakh are RT-PCR tests and the rest rapid antigen.

WORKS GO ON

Rural schemes faring better despite pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

DESPITE the country reeling under the second wave of the pandemic, the Union rural development ministry has shown considerable progress in executing its schemes in the current financial year, data from the ministry has shown.

Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, around 52 per cent more work has been offered in May this year as compared to May 2019. The work offered last year was around 1.22 crore persons per day. As of May 13 this year, 2.95 crore persons per day have been offered employment.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the works related to constructing roads have seen the biggest progress in the last three years, claimed the ministry. "The cumulative physical progress and the cumulative expenditure under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from April 1 to May 12 this financial year are 1,795.9 km and ₹1,693.8 crore respectively, which are much higher than the corresponding figures in previous financial years," the statement added.

As far as the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin is concerned, streamlined workflow has ensured an expenditure of ₹5,854 crore in the current financial year as compared to ₹2,512 crore in 2020-21 and ₹1,411 crore in 2019-20 in the corresponding periods, said the ministry.

EXPRESS READ

16 viral strains found in U'khand samples

Dehradun: Reports of genome sequencing of samples from Uttarakhand have revealed that at least 16 variants of SARS-CoV-2 virus are active in the state. State's health officials said reports of 531 samples are still pending and hence, deciding which variant is dominating the scene would take more time. A total of 851 simples were sent to a Delhi lab out of which reports of 285 samples revealed that 208 samples had the mutant strain of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

₹2,500 cr for states to boost school education

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday said that a `2,500 crore fund will be released soon to states for various school education initiatives, following what it called was the biggest meeting held on school education during the Covid-19 pandemic period. So far, according to the Union ministry of education, ad hoc grants to the tune of `5228 crore have been released to the states under Samagra Shiksha since the pandemic hit the country.

RENOWNED POET TESTS +VE

Renowned Bengali poet Joy Goswami, who tested positive for Covid-19, has been admitted to a hospital in Kolkata. The 66-year-old was suffering from high fever, a health department official said

10 MORE TRAINS CANCELLED BY NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	26	Mumbai	30	28
Bhopal	36	24	Panaji	30	26
Jaipur	29	23	Patna	36	26
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	32	27
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	33	26
Kolkata	39	29	Imphal	30	18
Srinagar	24	11	Chandigarh	37	22

Military part of search, rescue ops

PM reviews preparedness, assures CMs of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa of Centre's support

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to chief ministers of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and the lieutenant governor of Daman & Diu to take stock of the preparations to face cyclone Tauktae. The Prime Minister assured the chief ministers and the LG that the Centre will provide all assistance to deal with the situations arising out of the cyclone.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday evening called up Chief Minister Vijay Rupani over the phone and sought details of preparation by the state government to deal with cyclone Tauktae," the Gujarat Chief Minister's Office said in a press release.

The chief minister apprised the PM about the precautionary steps being taken by the state government to tackle the situation, it said.

Meanwhile, the armed forces on Monday pressed their personnel and platforms into action to mitigate not only the damage to life, but also to carry out search and rescue operations. Likely areas of high impact have been identified, sources said. The Navy mobilised its warships and aircraft on Monday in response to an SOS by an Indian-flagged Tug 'Coromandel Supporter IX', which was adrift northwest of Mangalore, Karnataka. Rough seas, due to the cyclone caused the seawater to gush into the vessel's machinery compartments, rendering it without propulsion and power supply. All the nine crew members have been rescued in a joint operation by the Navy and the Coast Guard. In a separate incident, amid heavy rains, 278 people got stranded on a barge adrift on Heera Oil Fields in Bombay High area. The Navy has rescued 38 of them. Another operation was launched in response to an SOS received from 'GAL Constructor', another barge with 137 people on board, about 8 nautical miles from Mumbai. Warship INS Kolkata was rushed to the location. The Navy had kept its diving teams on standby for deployment in case of any requests from State authorities.

"Repair and rescue teams have been formed to undertake urgent infrastructural repairs post-cyclone if required," Commander Madhwal said. "Various ships along the Western seaboard are standby with aid and relief material for immediate assistance to affected areas as required and to provide assistance to stranded fishing boats/small boats."

Bandra-Worli sea link at Bandra in Mumbai on Monday amid heavy rains caused by Cyclone Tauktae | PTI

Railways doing intense patrolling for safety

New Delhi: The Ministry of Railways has drawn up a slew of measures in the wake of Cyclone Tauktae. The ministry said the zonal and divisional control rooms are monitoring the situation and are constantly in touch with all railway stations in Southern Railway, South Western Railway, Konkan Railway, Central Railway and Western Railway. The railways has put accident relief trains (ART), medical relief vans (MRV) and tower wagons on high alert. An intensive patrolling of the vulnerable areas was being done and all important bridges were being monitored by the engineering teams

BJP's West Bengal leaders fear backlash over arrests

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE leaders and functionaries of the BJP's West Bengal unit have expressed concern about possible backlash after the CBI arrested two Trinamool Congress ministers, one MLA and former mayor of Kolkata on Monday in connection with the Narada sting operation case.

Sources in the saffron camp said they fear the state law enforcement agencies may swing into action against them after Monday's arrests by the Central agency. They are not expecting the TMC-led state government to take the arrests lightly.

"Since morning, senior TMC leaders have been describing the CBI arrests as part of the BJP's revenge politics. The ruling party will definitely try to engage its machinery against us," a senior state BJP leader said.

TMC party supporters raised slogans against the BJP-led NDA government, and hurled stones at security personnel outside Nizam Palace protesting the arrests.

"We have nothing to say about today's incidents politically," said Shamik Bhattacharya, spokesperson of BJP's West Bengal unit.

Sources in the police said, there are several cases lodged against BJP functionaries in different police stations across the state. The party's senior leaders are aware of it. "Several cases are pending against our state president Dilip Ghosh, MP Arjun Singh, youth wing leader Shanku Panda, and senior functionaries like Sayantan Basu, Suvendu Adhikari, Raju Banerjee. We fear, the state government may swing into action against us," senior state BJP leader said.

According to the police, at least 65 cases are pending against Dilip Ghosh and more than 70 against Arjun Singh. "We have 30 to 50 cases pending against other leaders. The cases include restricting public servants from discharging his or her duty, which is non-bailable offence. There are also cases of rioting and causing grievous hurt voluntarily," a police source said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leaves the CBI office in Nizam Palace in Kolkata on Monday | BIBHASH LODH

Centre trying to divert public attention, say Congress, Left

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE Congress and the CPI(M), which fought the recent Assembly elections in West Bengal together, have condemned the CBI arrests of the two ministers and an MLA of the ruling Trinamool Congress in Narada sting operation case.

The parties questioned why two other accused—Suvendu Adhikari and Mukul Roy—who are former TMC members, presently in the saffron camp, were left untouched.

The parties accused the BJP-led Central government of engaging in vendetta-politics and called the arrests an attempt by the Centre to divert people's attention from its mismanagement of the second wave of the Covid pandemic.

"When the country is facing an unprecedented crisis due to surge in Covid-19 cases, the Centre has arrested TMC's two ministers, one MLA and another former minister. The time of the action was selected to divert people's focus from the BJP-led central government's mismanagement of the pandemic. The BJP should remember that the people of Bengal rejected their ideology in the Assembly elections," said CPI(M)'s state secretary Suryakanta Mishra.

SRINAGAR

Two militants killed in gunfight with security forces

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

TWO militants from Albadar outfit were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Khunmoh area of Srinagar on Monday. Police said five militants are still active in the city.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the police received information about the presence of militants in the Khunmoh area.

"Accordingly, a joint contingent of police, CRPF and the Army laid siege to the area. In the early hours Monday, the forces zeroed-in on the target area where the militants were present. The troops asked them to surrender and lay down their weapons. However, they turned down the offer and fired at the forces," he said.

In the ensuing gunfight, two Albadar militants were killed. The security forces recovered two pistols, one hand grenade and three UBGL grenades from the site of the encounter. A house, where the militants were hiding, was partially damaged in the gunfight.

Police identified the deceased militants as Wasim Bashir Pandit and Mudasir Ahmad Khanday, both residents of Pulwama district. Talking to reporters, IGP Vijay Kumar said five local militants are active in Srinagar at present. "The hunt is on to track them. They will either be killed or arrested". He, however, said militants have many over-ground workers in Srinagar. Many of them have been arrested and booked under the PSA and many others are on police radar.

Political showdown feared as Bihar stops UP's construction on Gandak

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

THE Water Resource Department of the Bihar government on Monday stopped the construction of a channel in the Gandak River in Bihar's West Champaran area by the Uttar Pradesh government, in an act that is likely to snowball into a major political tussle between the two states.

The Bihar government stepped in after local BJP leaders and the public raised objections to the construction.

A week ago, an agency of the Uttar Pradesh government had started the construction works for a channel in the river in order to divert the stream of water from the UP side of the embankment, ahead of the upcoming flood season.

BJP MLA Vinay Bihari of Lauria in West Champaran first raised objections to the construction, saying the channel will exert tremendous pressure on the embankment on the Bihar side. And the increased pressure of water on the embankment may cause major breaches in it, which will lead to floodwaters inundating larger parts of West Champaran.

The BJP MLA had threatened to resign if the work is not stopped immediately by the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar.

Another BJP MLA, Narayan Prasad, also raised a strong objection to the construction.

He alleged that the channel may change the mainstream of the rivers of Uttar Pradesh towards Bihar, resulting in increased pressure on the embankment.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar immediately sought a report on the construction from the Water Resource Department (WRD). Officials of the WRD went to the site in Harpur Panchayat of Thakraha block of West Champaran for inspections.

"The team of WRD engineers and officials has stopped work of construction on Sunday," Sanjay Kumar Jha, WRD minister informed the media. Meanwhile, an official statement from the Bihar WRD said the work was being carried out without getting the NOC from the Bihar government.

EXPRESS READ

Lockdown: Air Asia offers free flight cancellations

New Delhi: AirAsia India announced free cancellation and rescheduling for flights to and from West Bengal in light of the lockdown in the state. The airline similarly continued to extend free cancellation and rescheduling for flights to and from Karnataka, Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu as well for the current duration of the respective state lockdowns. AirAsia introduced this additional flexibility for customers in light of the lockdown and curfew on the movement of individuals.

16-year-old girl raped in UP's Amethi

Amethi: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped repeatedly by a youth in the past one year, police said in Amethi on Monday. The crime came to light when the girl complained of pain in her stomach and was found seven-month pregnant, police added. When questioned, the girl said she was raped by the youth several times in the past year had taken a pill from a local chemist to abort pregnancy, resulting in pain in the stomach. A case has been registered in this connection and the girl has been sent for a medical examination. Efforts are on to nab the accused, police added.

SHIFT STAN SWAMY TO HOSPITAL: ACTIVISTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ranchi

JHARKHAND Janadhikar Mahasabha (JJM), a coalition of progressive organisations, has demanded that Jesuit priest Father Stan Swamy, who is currently lodged in Mumbai's Taloja Central Prison, be shifted to a hospital to ensure that he gets better medical treatment.

In a letter to the Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil, JJM said in light of Swamy's deteriorating health and the present situation at the Taloja jail, where many inmates have tested positive for Covid, he should be shifted immediately to a hospital.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had arrested the 84-year-old Jesuit priest in the Bhima Koregaon case on October 8, 2020. According to Jharkhand Janadhikar Mahasabha , Swamy is having fever, cough and an upset stomach. He was given antibiotics by the Ayurvedic doctors of the jail, but it has not helped him much, and hence, he needs a proper medical care.

CBI CHARGESHEET

'MLAs may influence witnesses'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SUBMITTING its chargesheet before the special court, the CBI opposed the bail petitions of the accused, saying they could influence witnesses and tamper with evidence. The Narada sting happened in 2014 and the tape was released before the 2016 Bengal polls.

The sting had targeted seven of Trinamool's MPs, four MLAs, a deputy mayor and an IPS officer.

It purportedly showed them accepting bribes from a fictitious company for doing favours.

In his submission before the court, Trinamool MP and lawyer Kalyan Banerjee, who represented the accused MLAs, said, "The CBI sought approval in January from the Governor but he kept it in the drawer of his table. He, however, gave his nod when the Assembly was yet to be formed and the ministers were yet to be sworn in."

Enquiry against Sidhu, pressure on others who criticised CM

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Congress MLAs Navjot Singh Sidhu and Pargat Singh, and the state technical education minister Charanjeet Singh Channi, who have have criticised Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh over the sacrilege case, are now beginning to feel the heat.

The state Vigilance Bureau has launched an inquiry against close aides and wife of Sidhu over some land deals. It has reportedly prepared dossiers against him and his wife Dr Navjot Kaur Sidhu.

Amritsar SSP (Vigilance Bureau) Parampal Singh has submitted a seventeen-page unsigned report on "shady deals" involving Sidhu's wife or his close aides.

The report noted that one of Sidhu's aides was instrumental in getting Change in Land Use (CLUs) files of illegal and unauthorised colonies cleared.

Navjot Singh Sidhu

Meanwhile, Pargat has allegedly received threats from the political secretary to the chief minister. Pargat said Capt Sandeep Sandhu, the political secretary to Capt Amarinder Singh has threatened to book him in a police case for raising his voice against the CM on the issue of sacrilege and police firing.

"Being a former captain of the Indian hockey team, I was shocked to have gotten such a message. But if speaking truth on the sacrilege and the police firing cases was not acceptable to them, let them do whatever they want," he said.

Pargat alleged that other MLAs and ministers too are being arm-twisted.

"If the Vigilance has to do something, it should take irrigation scam to its logical conclusion. But the government is making efforts to save the big guns who are involved," Pargat said.

Train service suspended for one more week

The authorities have extended the suspension of train services on Banihal-Baramulla route till May 24. The decision was taken after the state government extended the Covid-19 lockdown till May 24 in view of the continuing surge in coronavirus cases and deaths in Jammu and Kashmir. The 137-kilometer Banihal-Baramulla rail line connects the Banihal area on Srinagar-Jammu national highway with Baramulla in north Kashmir. It passes through south and central Kashmir, including Srinagar.

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
fayazwani123@gmail.com

SRINAGAR DIARY

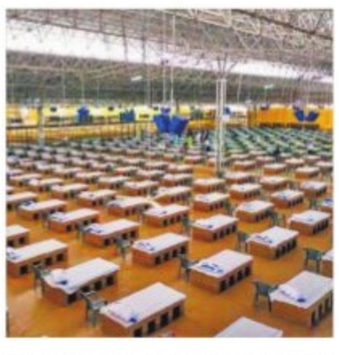
Medical college faculty asked to visit Covid wards

In view of a surge in deaths caused by Covid-19 in Jammu despite recording fewer cases than Kashmir, the authorities have ordered senior faculty members of The Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to frequently visit the wards, where Covid-19 positive patients are undergoing treatment. Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education Department Atal Dulloo in a communiqué to Principal GMC Jammu stated, "As you are aware that mortality rate among Covid positive patients has increased, and there is a need to reduce the same, which requires immediate corrective measures". "It is desirable that senior faculty members of the concerned departments of your institution be directed to increase their presence by making frequent rounds of wards," added the circular.

Cyber police reovers ₹13 lakh from online fraudsters

The cyber wing of the Kashmir Police has recovered `13 lakh from online fraudsters. The police said multiple victims were duped by the fraudsters in OTP and UPI frauds after which they had lodged complaints with the police. One of the victims lost ` 2 lakh to a UPI scam. The police acted swiftly and recovered the entire amount. In another incident, a person lost Rs 11 lakh to online fraudsters. On receiving the complaint, the police swung into action and managed to block the amount and get it credited to complainant's account.

Additional 20K Covid beds to be activated



In view of the increase in Covid-19 cases and deaths, the authorities have decided to activate about 20,000 Covid Care Centre (CCC) beds in all the 10 districts of Kashmir. The Deputy Commissioners of the 10 districts in the Valley have been given necessary directions. The beds will be used to treat patients with no or mild symptoms, who cannot be put in home isolation. The DCs have been directed to open the CCCs closer to the rural areas while the health department has been asked to work out the feasibility of providing some of these CCC beds with oxygen support. The Covid positive patients will be provided corona kits to tackle the infection effectively. The Asha and Anganwadi workers would be trained and empowered to assist in Covid mitigation efforts.

333
domestically transmitted Covid-19 cases reported in Taiwan on Monday.

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	33	17	SNY	Los Angeles	23	15	LC
Colombo	31	27	LC	Melbourne	17	10	LC
Dhaka	37	29	LC	Moscow	30	16	SNY
Dubai	40	28	SNY	New York	26	16	SNY
Houston	29	23	TDS	Singapore	30	26	TDS
Istanbul	23	14	LR	Toronto	21	12	SNY
London	16	8	HR	Washington	26	14	LC

Gaza reels under Israeli strikes as violence enters second week

Israeli bombardment has displaced 38,000 people and left 2,500 homeless, says UN

WAR ZONE

Israeli military has launched hundreds of airstrikes that it says are targeting Hamas' infrastructure

Hamas in Gaza have fired more than 3,200 rockets into Israel

200

Palestinians have been killed in the strikes, including 58 children and 35 women, with 1,300 wounded

8

Israelis have been killed in rocket attacks, including a 5-year-old boy and a soldier.

I have not seen this level of destruction through my 14 years of work. Not even in the 2014 war

Samir al-Khatib, an emergency rescue official in Gaza

Wants to levy a heavy price (on Hamas). That will take time

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister

12-year-old Rahaf al-Dayer's father holds her covered body at al-Shifa hospital, after she was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City on Monday | AFP

GAZA CITY

GAZA residents cowered indoors Monday as Israeli jets pounded the enclave and the violence that has killed more than 200 people, most of them Palestinians, entered a second week. Before dawn, within just a few minutes, dozens of Israeli strikes bombarded the crowded Palestinian coastal strip controlled by Islamist group Hamas.

Flames lit up the sky as intense explosions shook Gaza City, sparking widespread power cuts and damaging hundreds of buildings, local authorities said. Some 3,200 rockets have been fired by Palestinian militants toward Israel since the conflict escalated on May 10 in the heaviest exchange of fire in years, sparked by unrest in Jerusalem.

On Monday morning, an AFP reporter in Gaza saw huge plumes of grey smoke billow from a mattress factory, as civil defence members aimed high-pressure water hoses at the blaze. Later in the day, dust clouds rose near Gaza's Mediterranean port from further explosions, with Israel's army confirming it had targeted "a Hamas submergible naval weapon".

West Gaza resident Mahdi Abed Rabbo, 39, expressed "horror and fear" at the intensity of the onslaught, saying: "There have never been strikes of this magnitude." Another Gaza resident, Mani Qazaat, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "should realise we're civilians, not fighters".

"I felt like I was dying," he said about enduring a heavy aerial bombardment.

Israel's army said Monday it had hit the homes of nine "high-ranking" Hamas commanders, a day after bombing the house of Yahya Sinwar, head of the group's political wing. It gave no details of any casualties.

An Islamic Jihad commander was also killed Monday, a source within the group and the Israeli army said.

Fighter jets also hit what the Israeli army calls the "Metro," its term for Hamas' underground tunnels, which Israel has previously acknowledged runs in part through civilian areas.

The renewed strikes come a day after 42 Palestinians in Gaza -- including at least eight children and two doctors, according to the health ministry -- were killed in the worst daily death toll in the enclave since the bombardments began.

In total, 200 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including at least 59 children, and more than 1,300 wounded since Israel launched its air campaign against Hamas after the group fired rockets, according to the authorities there.

Israel says 10 people, including one child, have been killed and more than 309 wounded by rocket fire that has been the most intense to ever rain down on the Jewish state.

Islamic Jihad said it fired more rockets towards Tel Aviv, and air raids sirens wailed across Israel again on Monday, especially near the Gaza border. Israeli bombardment of Gaza has displaced 38,000 people and made 2,500 homeless, the United Nations says.

It has also battered crucial infrastructure, with the electricity authority Monday warning it only had enough fuel left to provide power for another two to three days.

On Saturday, Israel gave journalists from Al Jazeera and AP news agency an hour to evacuate their offices before launching air strikes, turning their tower block into a pile of smoking rubble.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Monday he had requested "details" and a "justification" for the strike. The violence between Hamas and Israel is the worst since 2014, when Israel launched a military operation on the Gaza Strip with the stated aim of ending rocket fire and destroying tunnels used for smuggling.

The war left 2,251 dead on the Palestinian side, mostly civilians, and 74 on the Israeli side, mostly soldiers.

Israel is also trying to contain intercommunal violence between Jews and Arab-Israelis, as well unrest in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinian authorities say Israeli forces have killed 19 Palestinians since May 10. A 56-year-old Israeli man who was beaten by Arab suspects in the city of Lod last week died in hospital on Monday, police said. AFP

Palestinians remove salvageable items from the bombarded Al-Jawhara Tower in Gaza City on Monday, five days after it was targeted by Israeli airstrikes | AFP

Israeli rescue teams and residents inspect the damage outside a building which received a direct hit by rockets from the Gaza Strip, in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, on Monday | AFP

US blocks third draft UN statement on Mideast violence

UN: The United States on Monday blocked — for the third time in a week — the adoption of a joint UN Security Council statement calling for a halt to Israeli-Palestinian violence and the protection of civilians, diplomats said. The text drafted by China, Tunisia and Norway was submitted late Sunday for approval Monday by the Council's 15 members, as Israeli jets continued to pound the Gaza Strip and the death toll from nearly a week of violence passed 200. The United States indicated that they "could not currently support an expression" by the Security Council, one diplomat said. The text, obtained by AFP, called for "de-escalation of the situation, cessation of violence and respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, especially children." It voiced the Council's "grave concern" at the Gaza crisis and its "serious concern" regarding the possible eviction of Palestinian families from their homes in East Jerusalem, opposing "unilateral actions" likely to further escalate tensions. The draft also welcomed international efforts to de-escalate the situation and reiterated the Council's support for a negotiated two-state solution allowing Israelis and Palestinians to "live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders." AFP

Russian court postpones Navalny extremism hearing

MOSCOW

A RUSSIAN court Monday postponed the beginning of an "extremism" hearing against the political network of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, part of a campaign to sideline opposition to President Vladimir Putin.

As the proceedings got underway, prosecutors submitted additional documents pushing the start date of the trial to June 9, lawyers representing Navalny's organisations said.

The proceedings, which are being held behind closed doors, are part of a sweeping crackdown on Putin's most prominent critic who was jailed this year and survived a poisoning attack in August.

As part of the effort -- which comes a few months before parliamentary elections – the lower house is set on Tuesday to begin debating a bill banning members of "extremist" organisations from being elected lawmakers. Navalny's network is being represented by lawyers of Team 29, a Saint Petersburg-based group that specialises in freedom of speech and treason cases. The lawyers said it was not clear why Monday's hearing was closed to the public or why some of the case files were labelled secret.

An aide to Navalny Ivan Zhdanov speculated on Twitter that it was an attempt to conceal the "absurdity of what is happening". Prosecutors in April requested that Navalny's regional network and his Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) be designated "extremist" organisations, accusing them of plotting to stage a Western-backed uprising in Russia.

EXPRESS READ

Global meet to offer debt relief to Sudan

Paris: French and African leaders and international organisations were holding a conference Monday in Paris to negotiate debt relief and raise global support for Sudan's transitional leadership. French President Emmanuel Macron was hosting the event.

New delay in graft trial of South Africa's Zuma

Pietermaritzburg: The corruption trial of Jacob Zuma was postponed on Monday, this time to May 26, as backers of the former president staged a boisterous show of support. Zuma faces 16 charges of fraud, graft and racketeering relating to a 1999 purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military gear from five European arms firms for 30 billion rand.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that, my clients Sri. V.C. Srinivas S/o Late Chikkanna, residing at No.39, 7th Main 2nd Cross, Annapoorneshwari Layout, (Wipro) Ullala Main Road, Jnanabharathi, Bangalore-560056 is the absolute owner in possession of the property bearing Site No. 40/A situated at Doddabasthi formed in Sy No. 25 of Ramasandra village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk having solikere Grama Panchayathi khatha No.25, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 20 feet totally measuring 600 square feet and lost the original sale deed dated 2/9/2003, registered as document No. 14194/2003-04, Book-1, Stored in CD No. 138, registered on 3/9/2003, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bengaluru on 23/04/2021 at about 10 AM to 11.55 AM while travelling from University quarters to Press Layout Bus-top, if any body found it. Any person/s, any other legal heirs/ representatives having any claim, right, title and interest or possession, mortgage, Hypothecation, lien etc., have got any objections or opposing the above referred transaction whatsoever may lodge his/her/their objection or claims with supporting documentary evidence/ proof to the under signed within 7 days from the date of this notice/ publication, failing which it may be presumed that, there are no objection/claims to complete the sale truncation in favour of my clients. Any objection or claims received after the lapse of 7 days will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. 40/A situated at Doddabasthi formed in Sy No. 25 of Ramasandra village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk having solikere Grama Panchayathi khatha No.25, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 20 feet totally measuring 600 square feet bounded on East by Road, West by property No. 71/A, North by property No. 40 and South by property No. 41

Address to file objections: **THIMMANNA**, Advocate, No. 87, 3rd Main, Annapoorneshwari Layout, Ullala Main Road, Jnanabharathi, Bangalore 560056. Bangalore, Date: 17/05/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that **Raghavendra R.,** Aged about 40 years S/o. Rudrappa S., R/at No. 08, **"LIPIKA NILAYA"** I Main Road, Kudureger Colony, Alur Post, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, BANGALORE – 562 162, expresses that he is intending to purchase the site bearing No. 06, Present Khatha No. 190/6, Old Khatha No. 96, situated at **KUDUREGERE VILLAGE, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** which is morefully described as Schedule Property, from his owner/vendor/ **Vijaya @ Vijaya L** W/o. Late. Venkatesh & her family members & entered into Sale Agreement without Possession dated 24/03/2021 registered as Document No. MDL-1-04194/2020-21 of Book – I Stored in C.D. No. MDLD 779 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Madanayakanahalli, Bangalore, who inturn had acquired the schedule property, under sale deed dated 03/01/2000 registered as Document No. 10286/1999-00 of Book – I Stored in C.D. No. 35 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, from K.V. Murthy represented by his GPA Holder/Mariyamma, who inturn had acquired by virtue of Hakkupattra dated 05/05/1975 allotted by Tahsildar, Nelamangala Taluk.

Raghavendra R., further expresses that he is intending to purchaser the Schedule Property by availing Housing Loan from **LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, BANGALORE.**

Any person or person/s, Government of Karnataka, Village Panchayathi/s, Bank/s /Financial Institution/s /Co-operative Society Ltd., /Company/ etc., having/ asserting any right title or interest /claims /NOC /etc., or intending to oppose the availing/ disbursing/ Housing Loan from LIC Housing Financial Limited., in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **TEN (10) Days** from the Publication of Notice hereof, along with Documentary Proof, where after no such claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of **Site No. 6** Present Khatha No. 190/6 Old Khatha No. 96, carved out of Sy. No. 18 by Government of Karnataka, on the occasion of 25th year of Independence Day vide order dated 13/05/1972 bearing No. DPC15 DRH situated at **KUDUREGERE VILLAGE, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 45 feet, in all measuring **1350 square feet,** with 1 square A.C. Sheet House with all civic amenities & bounded on the:-

East by : Site No. 07; West by : Site No. 05; North by : Road &; South by: Private Property

MR. G.N. HARISH, Advocate, # 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070.

Place : BANGALORE Date : 17-05-2021

QuoteExpress

ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Email-sepwdbalangir@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR.

1st CORRIGENDUM

Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BGR/02/2021-22

Letter No. 1406 // Dtd. 12.05.2021

B-91: The changes have been made for the above tender call notices the work Sl no 2 of the above notice is cancelled until further order.

All other terms and conditions are remaining unchanged.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer, Bolangir (R&B) Circle, Bolangir OIPR-34131/11/0001/2122

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE

Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering

O-193 **Identification No 10 Dt. 15-05-2021**

1. Nos. of Work : 4 Nos RPWS schemes in Balasore district.
2. Estimated cost : **Rs. 121.02 lakhs to Rs. 291.25 lakhs**
3. Period of completion : **330 days**
4. Availability of bid document in Portal : **Dt. 21.05.2021 at 10.00 hours to 31-05-2021 up to 17.00 hours through online.**
5. Seeking of Clarification : Dt. 21.05.21 at 10.00 hours to Dt. 28.05.2021 up to 15.00 hours
6. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt. 01.06.2021 at 11.00 hours in the O/O EE, RWSS Division, Balasore.**
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender : **Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore**

Bid Cost & Bid Security will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT / RTGS.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore OIPR-25013/11/0003/2122

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Jayanagar (02731) Branch, T.Mariyappa Road, 1st Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560011, Ph: 080-22959680, 22959679 E-mail: bm0273@andhrabank.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA.

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Jayanagar Branch,** offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Mr. N.Srinivasan, No.493, 4th Cross, Chennakesava Nagar, Hosur Road, Electronic City Post, Bangalore-560100. **2) Mrs. Lakshmi Srinivasan.N,** No.493, 4th Cross, Chennakesava Nagar, Hosur Road, Electronic City Post, Bangalore-560100. **Guarantor: 1) Mr.Krishnappa N** S/o Nagappa No.23, 2nd Cross, Nanjundeshwara Layout, Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru-560100.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility / Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs.)	Applicable Rate of Interest	Outstanding as on:31.03.2021
1	Housing Loan 027330100011100	Rs 24,00,000/-	8.35+2% Penal Interest	Rs.19,88,522.53

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, A/c. No. Housing Loan 027330100011100, Rs.19,88,522.53 (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two and Fifty Three Paise Only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 28.04.2020 Demand Date : 06.04.2021

Description of the Secured Assets:

Land and Building Property bearing house list No. 23, Property No. 116/62/4-23, Old Khata No. 166, Asst No. 62/4, Near Madhura Garments, Parappana Agrahara, Electronic City Post, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560100. Measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft in all measuring 1200 sq.ft bounded by East : 25 ft Road, West : Property No.6, North : Property No.24, South : Property No. 22.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Mr. Narayana Rao.N, 1/3, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068. **2) Mrs. Monica.N,** 1/3, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility / Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs.)	Applicable Rate of Interest	Outstanding as on:31.03.2021
1	Housing Loan 027330100011517	Rs 54,00,000/-	7.05+2% Penal Interest	Rs.49,45,371.67
2	Mortgage Loan 027330100018839	Rs 9,00,000/-	11.6+2% Penal Interest	Rs.7,40,946.31
Total				Rs.56,86,317.98

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, A/c. No. (1) Housing Loan 027330100011517 (2) Mortgage Loan 027330100018839, Rs.56,86,317.98 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventeen and Ninety Eight Paise Only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 31.12.2019 Demand Date : 06.04.2021

Description of the Secured Assets:

Land and Building @ Site No. 29, Katha No. 35/4, Property No. 35/4 & 35/5, Off Yelanahalli Main Road, Yelanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560068 and Bounded by : East : Site No. 42, West : Road, North : Site No. 28, South : Site No. 30.

3. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Mr. K.Chandra Kumar, #41/43, 4th Cross, Ramanjaneya Layout, Near Murali Gas Agency Marthalli, Bangalore-560037. **2) Mrs. P.Geetha,** #41/43, 4th Cross, Ramanjaneya Layout, Near Murali Gas Agency Marthalli, Bangalore-560037.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S.No	Facility / Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs.)	Applicable Rate of Interest	Outstanding as on:31.03.2021
1	Housing Loan 027330100023822	Rs 50,00,000/-	7.3+2% Penal Interest	Rs.53,62,709.68

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, A/c. No.Housing Loan 027330100023822, Rs.53,62,709.68 (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Nine and Sixty Eight Paise Only) together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 28.04.2020 Demand Date : 06.04.2021

Description of the Secured Assets:

Residential Flat No.FF-01 Fourth Floor, MSR Nigam Apartment, Site No. 115, BBMP Khata No. 597/4598/2516/115/150, 5th Cross, Near Nehru Memorial School, Raja Layout, Nagadevanahlli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore-560060. Measuring East to West 80 ft and North to South 45 ft in all measuring 3600 Sq.ft. Bounded by : East : Road, West : Site No.116, North : Site No. 114, South : Road.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date :17.05.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

QuoteExpress

OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR

KYLE CHANDLER

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, 3rd Main Road, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040.

No.EE(VJN)/AE/TEND/01/2021-22 Date: 17-05-2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, (Vijayanagar), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work & Category	Apprx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)
	Two Cover System (KW-3)	
1.	Stabilization and asphalting from 6th Main to 9th Main, Vijayanagar in Ward No.123 **(Others).**	60.00
2.	Improvements to asphalting Road Manjunathanagar & Channel Road surrounding areas in Ward No.123 **(Others).**	60.00
3.	Improvements Roads & drains Pipeline Road surrounding areas in Hosahalli in Ward No.124 (2nd Call) **(Others).**	51.00
4.	Improvements Roads & drains Sarkari Oni surrounding areas in Hosahalli in Ward No.124 (2nd Call) **(Others).**	51.00
5.	Resurfacing of asphalting Kuvempu Circle Church Road & I & C Layout service Road Opp. Police Station surrounding area in Ward No.124, Hosahalli **(Others).**	60.00
6.	Improvements to drains and Roads in Ward No.124 **(Others).**	99.00
	Single Cover System (KW-1 & 2)	
7.	Improvements of Roads & de-silting of drains of ward jurisdiction in Ward No.122 K.P. Agrahara **(Others).**	49.99
8.	Improvements to Roads & drains in Bhuvaneshwarinagar in Ward No.122 **(Others).**	49.99
9.	Providing Pipeline and Improvements to borewell near Railway compound in Ward No.122 **(Others).**	25.00
10.	Improvements to drain near KEB Office in Ward No.122 **(Others).**	30.00
11.	Providing asphalting to 8th Cross 'C' Block near Transformer in Ward No.122 **(SC).**	30.00
12.	Providing drinking water works in Ward No.122 in Vijayanagar Division **(Others).**	13.00
13.	Maintenance of Anganawadi Building at Pipeline in Ward No.123 **(ST).**	10.00
14.	Maintenance of UGD works in Ward No.123 (3rd Call) **(Others).**	10.00
15.	Engaged silt and tractor in Ward No. 123 **(SC).**	12.00
16.	Filling of pot holes in Ward No.123 **(Others).**	20.00
17.	Providing borewell and Pipeline in necessity area at Hosahalli in Ward No.124 **(Others).**	15.00
18.	Providing RCC wall and Grill work to Railway Parallel Road at Handigudisalu Slum in Ward No.124 **(Others).**	50.00
19.	Asphalting and other Improvements to 5th Main Road Shamanna Garden in Ward No. 134 (5th Call) **(Others).**	30.00
20.	Maintenance in Park in Ward No. 158 **(ST).**	5.00
21.	Ward maintenance for the year 2019-20 in Wad No.158 **(Others).**	12.00
22.	Providing pot hole filling in Deepanjalinagar in Ward No.158 **(SC).**	20.00

Note: As per GOK Order No.: ಅಇ 675 Cost - 12/2020, Bangalore, Dated : 22-12-2020.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from **24-05-2021 (2)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on **31-05-2021 before 4:00 p.m. (3)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **27-05-2021 at 3:00 p.m. (4)** Technical bids for Two Cover System and Financial Bids for Single Cover System will be opened on the website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in the office of the Executive Engineer (Viajayanagar) on or after **01-06-2021 at 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BBMP.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
848.18	Sensex	49,580.73	₹42	24 carat (1 gm)	₹4,818	₹1,145	Per kg	₹71,505	Dollar		73.22
245.35	Nifty	14,923.15	₹42	22 carat (1 gm)	₹4,799	₹1.15	Per gm	₹71.5	Euro		89.15

India's m-cap hits all-time high

Total market value of all listed firms beats FY21's estimated nominal GDP at $2.9 trillion

SUNITHA NATTI

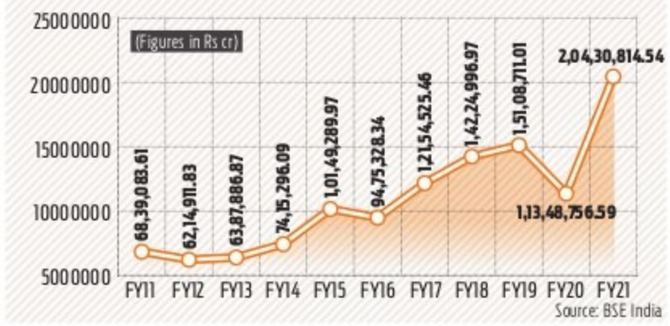
FOR the first time, the market value of India's listed companies crossed $2.9 trillion—much higher than FY2020-21's nominal GDP, which is estimated to have contracted to $2.6 trillion. On Monday, the combined market capitalisation (m-cap) of all 4,700-odd BSE listed firms touched a fresh all-time high of ₹213.6 lakh crore, higher than the FY20 nominal GDP of ₹203 lakh crore, or $2.8 trillion.

It's also much higher than the estimated FY21 nominal GDP of ₹195 lakh crore, or $2.6 trillion, the official data for which is due to be released later this month.

If the ongoing equities rally sustains, chances are that we could emerge as the world's sixth biggest stock market, overtaking Canada, Germany and France. As on March, India is ranked eighth.

The markets' soaring spirits seem like a barefaced lie, masking the gravity of both economic and healthcare crises,

BSE MARKET CAPITALISATION OVER THE YEARS



Source: BSE India

but experts reason that it's indicative of future optimism, perhaps anchored by hopes of a recovery in growth.

In terms of the m-cap-to-GDP ratio, this translates to 109 per cent—much higher than the historical average of 75 per cent, but lower than the all-time high of 147 per cent seen in 2007. Market capitalisation, or market value, is calculated by multiplying share prices with total shares outstanding of all listed firms.

The m-cap-to-GDP ratio also indicates whether markets are underpriced or overpriced compared to the historical average. Broadly, a range between 50 and 75 per cent is considered undervalued, 75-90 per cent fair valued, and anything above 90 per cent is modestly overvalued. India has rarely exceeded 100 per cent and the average of the last 20 years stands at 75 per cent.

Some believe that m-cap-to-GDP, also known as the Buffett Indicator, isn't a marker of economic progress since listed companies are a fraction of India's GDP, or overall output.

"The ratio itself may not be useful, but its direction is. That's because these listed companies include consumer goods, automakers, FMCGs, and others, whose products are bought by people. But it may not be a perfect indicator of economic progress. The question is whether the growth of these large companies indicates equitable growth? The answer is unclear. But it's also true that when the formal economy goes up, the informal economy benefits too. So, markets going up is definitely not a bad sign, but a reflection of expectations of market traders," said Prasanna Tantri, Assistant Professor, ISB, whose research specialisation includes stock markets.

Meanwhile, foreign portfolio investors' holdings in domestic equities touched $552 billion in just the three months ending March. The equities rally is also led by large caps followed by gains in mid and small cap stocks, who are seeing a record participation from domestic retail investors.

WhatsApp to delete accounts that don't accept new policy

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

FACEBOOK-owned messaging service WhatsApp has not deferred its controversial privacy policy in India and will gradually delete user accounts which do not accept the new terms and conditions. WhatsApp's lawyers, Arvind Datar and Kapil Sibhal informed the Delhi High Court on Monday that there was no deferment of the policy, stating that the tech firm was trying to get users on board with persuasion and may eventually delete the user accounts that don't comply with the new rules. Sibal added that although the accounts would not be deleted right away, they will eventually be removed if the guidelines were not accepted.

This stand contradicts earlier reports that claimed WhatsApp had scrapped or deferred the rollout of its privacy policy in India—a new set of rules surrounding chat information and business accounts which had sparked widespread criticism across the country.

We have asked users to agree to the policy. If they don't agree, we will delete (the accounts)... there is no deferment of policy

Whatsapp legal counsel to Delhi High Court

WhatsApp, however, has said that it will send reminders on its privacy policy update in the weeks to come and that there would be no intercession of user privacy.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing on behalf of the central government, told the Delhi HC that WhatsApp's new privacy policy violated the country's Information Technology Act, 2020 and that a reply has been sought from Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on the same. The Centre sought to maintain a status quo on the implementation of the policy, a suggestion opposed by Whatsapp.

According to data analytics firm Sensor Tower, WhatsApp downloads during the January-April period fell by 43 per cent to 172.3 million globally after it announced changes in its new privacy policy. Rival messaging apps Signal and Telegram have witnessed a massive spike in new installs during that period to 64.4 million (1,192 per cent YoY) and 161 million (98 per cent yoy) respectively.

EXPRESS READ

Jio, consortium to build undersea cable network

Chennai: Reliance Jio on Monday said that it is now constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom. The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets through Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia and the other one with Europe.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹751.95

Target Price ₹970

BSE

We continue to see BSE Ltd as a tactical play of a combination of the core business and the potential value from revenue scale-up in new segments (Star MF, Commodities, and INX).

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

CORPORATE RESULTS

BHARTI AIRTEL MOBILE BIZ ARPU DIVES AFTER REMOVAL OF IUC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

TELECOM services provider Bharti Airtel on Monday reported a sequential drop in both consolidated net profit and revenue during the fourth quarter of FY21 (ended March 31 (Q4FY21) after the removal of the Inter-connect Usage Charge (IUC) system led to a fall in its average revenue per user (ARPU) in its wireless business. The company declared a consolidated net profit of ₹759 crore for the quarter compared to a loss of ₹5,237 crore in the same period a year ago.

The company also reported an annual turnover of more than ₹1 lakh crore for the first time in FY21.

Bharti Airtel's consolidated revenue increased on a year-on-year basis by 11.9 per cent to ₹25,747 crore during the quarter, but fell three per cent compared to the previous quarter. It's consolidated net profit also fell sequentially by 11.1 per cent driven by the dive in ARPU.

The key metric went from ₹1 nearly 13 per cent in the quarter to ₹145 per user from a three-year high of ₹166 during the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, the India revenue of Bharti Airtel increased by 10 per cent during the quarter to ₹18,337.8 crore from ₹16,734.3 crore a year ago. Mobile services business of Bharti Airtel grew by 9 per cent to ₹14,079.7 crore during the period under review.

The company managed to offset the fall in ARPU through cost cutting measures: its capital expenditure in the mobile network, for instance, halved to ₹3,739.3 crore during the quarter.

However, the work-from-home trend is driving data demand upwards, which has seen a higher investment in fixed line services such as broadband connections.

Bharti Airtel also increased investment in home services by over three-folds year-on-year to ₹332.5 crore during the quarter.

Federal Bank Q4 net jumps 58%

New Delhi: A sharp 57 per cent fall in provisions year-on-year helped Federal Bank net profits in a big way in the quarter ended March. The Kochi-headquartered lender posted a 58 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to ` 521.24 crore for the March 2021 quarter. Net Interest Income, or core income, grew by 17 per cent over the previous year to reach `1,420 crore on credit growth of 9 per cent and a 0.19 per cent widening in the net interest margin at 3.23 per cent., the bank said. According to Shyam Srinivasan, managing director and chief executive, Federal Bank the first quarter of the new fiscal (April-June 2021) will be challenging for business and its operations, following the impact of the second wave. However, Srinivasan doesn't see any major deviation in performance in the coming quarters from what the bank has seen in Q4.

UPGRADE

NEFT transfers not operational next weekend

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

IF you are planning an online money transfer using the banking system between Saturday midnight and Sunday, you will be well advised to not bank on what is among the most used electronic transfer systems in India: NEFT.

According to a statement from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday, the NEFT service will not be available from 00:01 hrs to 14:00 hours on Sunday, May 23, 2021 due to a NEFT system upgrade. A similar technical upgrade for the real-time gross settlement (RTGS) was completed on April 18, 2021.

The NEFT upgrade means that during this period, any money transfer involving the NEFT system will not be available for use by bank customers. However, the RTGS system will continue to be operational as usual during this period, the central bank said.

"A technical upgrade of NEFT, targeted to enhance the performance and resilience, is scheduled after the close of business of May 22, 2021. Accordingly, NEFT service will not be available from 00:01 hrs to 14:00 hrs on Sunday, May 23, 2021," said the Reserve Bank of India's communication to the banks on Monday.

Household inflation forcing consumers to restrict spending

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

WPI speeds up to 10.49% in April

India's wholesale inflation accelerated to 10.49 per cent in April due to a surge fuel and manufactured product prices. Food prices rose 4.92 per cent with pulses, fruits and eggs, meat and fish rising 10.74 per cent, 27.43 per cent and 10.88 per cent, respectively. Fuel and power inflation stood at nearly 21 per cent, while manufacturing products rose 9.01 per cent

A steep rise in household inflation, and financial uncertainty on account of the pandemic is forcing consumers to restrict themselves to essential purchases while postponing long-term expenditure.

Even as travel remains restricted, the normal costs of a household have gone up considerably. For instance, retail prices of edible oils have shot up by 60-90 per cent in just over a year. A litre of mustard oil, which cost around ₹110 last year and is considered essential in many households, is now selling at ₹225.

Even the price of pulses has appreciated significantly—by 30-40 per cent over the last six months. Plain tur daal is selling for ₹114-124 per kg, up from ₹80 per kg last year.

High petrol and diesel prices are also adding to woes. The price of petrol in Delhi currently stands at ₹92.58 per litre while diesel is now selling at ₹83.22. Petrol prices have already crossed the ₹100 mark in many cities and, despite lockdowns and travel restriction, fuel prices have a cascading impact on the other commodity prices.

While the supply of wheat has increased and market prices have softened, the price of wheat flour has still not gone down, and remains stagnant, while the price of rice has gone up by 15-25 per cent, depending on the quality.

Several packaged consumer goods categories, such as soaps, tea, and edible oils, have also seen a price hike for the second quarter in a row, owing to high raw material costs. According to Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at State Bank of India, the steep fall in retail inflation in April to 4.29 per cent from 5.52 per cent in March is deceptive, since rural core inflation has jumped to 6.4 per cent. Increasing health expenditure due to the pandemic is also having a meaningful impact, and headline inflation does not provide the best perspective to assess the stress in the system.

Going forward, supply side constraints, a hike in input costs, and logistics issues arising from lockdowns are expected to keep prices high for a few months. "The build-up in my input price pressures across sectors, driven in part by elevated global commodity prices, remains a concern," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in the monthly Economic report by RBI released on Monday.

The report by the central bank has also warned that the biggest impact of the second wave has been on consumer demand. "High frequency indicators for April and May 2021 are scanty in view of data lags, but they suggest that the biggest toll of the second wave is in terms of a demand shock - loss of mobility, discretionary spending and employment, besides inventory accumulation," the RBI's report pointed out.

Preliminary data shows decline in fuel demand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PRELIMINARY data on petrol and diesel sales point to a decline in fuel demand in April, due to mobility restrictions. Diesel sales contracted 1.7% on a month-on-month basis, while petrol sales slipped 6.3% in April. Electricity generation stagnated sequentially but rose 8% compared with April 2020. Pointing to such growth figures, when compared annually, RBI said the impact of the second Covid wave on industrial activity may be less severe than the first. It may, however, be noted that industrial production surged out of a two-month contraction on the back of a favourable base effect. E-way bills — an indicator of domestic trade — recorded a 17.5% month-on-month contraction in April.

"This could be pointing to a moderation in GST collections in the comingmonths," RBI observed. Similarly, most of the original equipment manufacturers of passenger vehicles reported a monthly fall in April, reflecting subdued demand. If infections don't ebb and demand weakens further, it could worsen price instability, the central bank warned.

Big Bazaar betting on smaller towns, online channels for growth: CEO

SESA SEN @New Delhi

THE Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down expansion plans for Future Group's flagship hypermarket chain Big Bazaar, but the company is adjusting to the new reality while continuing to bet on tier-2 cities and beyond for its next phase of growth.

With consumer behaviour beginning to shift after the first wave of the health crisis, "the online business" has been playing a very important role even in non-metros, Big Bazaar CEO Sadashiv Nayak told *The New Indian Express*. Going forward, the company intends to expand into more cities with a strong omni-channel presence.

Tussle with Amazon may impact Future's debt

There are signs that Future's tussle with Amazon may weigh on debt. Fitch Ratings says its access to credit remains problematic, as evidenced by the lack of new institutional grants under the one-time restructuring program

"The renewed restrictions in several states have been as severe as the last year in terms of physical stores. The demand has now shifted towards online with customers now sending orders to local store managers using WhatsApp or logging onto our delivery app or website," Nayak said. Last month, Big Bazaar rolled out its two-hour delivery service. Cities such as Bhopal, Mangalore, Raipur, Ranchi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi, to name a few, have seen orders climb over the past week. "We are not really looking to tap the customers who are already compatible with e-commerce, but people who are not used to e-commerce shopping. Tier-2, tier-3 cities are hotbeds for growth and Big Bazaar is working on innovative ways to ensure people spend less time at stores at this point in time," said the CEO.

Moglix latest to enter unicorn club as start-ups raise $500 million in a day

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THREE start-ups, Pinelabs, Moglix, and Lenskart, announced on Monday that they have raised a cumulative $500 million in capital with VCs bullish on Indian tech platforms even as the second wave of the pandemic makes the economic situation uncertain. The day also saw B2B industrial commerce platform Moglix announce become the latest entrant to India's booming unicorn club—of companies with a valuation of over $1 billion. Moglix stated that it has raised $120 million at a $1 billion valuation in a Series E round.

The fundraise is also indicative that investors are betting big on the role that next-gen technologies in traditional sectors like manufacturing and finance will play.

Navroz Udwadia, Co-founder of Falcon Edge Capital, which led the $120 million funding round into Moglix, said that the company's first mover advantage, full-stack solution for under-serviced customers, and ability to drive robust unit economics has driven investments. "Moglix's distinctive customer value proposition and ROI are visible in its outstanding customer and revenue retention numbers. We believe Moglix is now well poised to scale," he said in a statement.

Okinawa to launch 2 new EVs, aims at 3x growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

INDIA'S second largest electric two-wheeler maker Okinawa plans to launch two new products by the festive season as it aims to triple its sales and revenue this financial year.

The two products are the e-bike Oki100 and a high speed e-scooter codenamed Oki90. Okinawa says that the Oki90 will come with swappable batteries and offer a range of over 200 km on a single charge..

The Gurugram-based company, which clocked an annual revenue of ₹155 crore in FY21 and sold 30,930 units during the year, also reiterated its commitment to invest ₹150 crore during the financial year in an effort to expand its product portfolio and on-ground footprint.

"The last year has been tough for the entire automobile industry. It was indeed a setback for us at Okinawa, as for any other company," said Jeetender Sharma, MD & founder of the company. "Okinawa is planning to sell three times the scooters that we sold in 2020. As the ecosystem strengthens further, we are absolutely bullish about our growth prospects in FY22."

However, achieving this growth won't be easy. EV sales, which witnessed minor recovery during the second half of the last fiscal, is now back under pressure due to the second Covid-19 wave.

Additionally, the segment is expected to turn highly competitive with the heavily-funded Ola Electric making its big entry in October this year. SoftBank-backed Ola has plans to disrupt India's EV market. Besides Ola, the current market leader Hero Electric, Bajaj Auto, and Hero MotorCorp-backed Ather Energy are also ramping up their capacities.

Okinawa is planning to sell three times the scooters that we sold in 2020. As the ecosystem strengthens further, we are absolutely bullish about growth prospects in FY22 —Jeetender Sharma, MD, Okinawa

Neville leads call for independent regulator

Premier League

A number of high-profile former players, led by former Manchester United captain Gary Neville, have launched a parliamentary petition calling for an independent regulator in English football. The call for action came in an open letter from Neville, signed by the likes of Jamie Carragher, Rio Ferdinand and Gary Lineker, as well as journalists.

LOOKING FOR MORE COMPETITIONS

Shot putter Tajinder yet to attain qualifying standard, is placed 29th in Road to Tokyo; top 32 will qualify for Games

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

AS Indian players from various disciplines are going abroad where there are fewer cases and lesser restrictions for training and competitions, a bunch of track and field athletes are stuck in their centres in Patiala and Bengaluru. Ten individual athletes have already qualified along with the 4x400m mixed relay team, but there are a few athletes who are hoping to punch a Tokyo ticket. Their exposure trip to Turkey in early May was cancelled because of restrictions including quarantine as the Athletics Federation of India felt athletes should not miss training time at this crucial juncture.

One such athlete is shot-putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, who is training in Patiala. The predicament of the national record holder is quite unique. He is yet to the attain qualifying standard for the Olympics (21.10m). He has been struggling with his throwing left hand injury since last year and his progression of throws had a dip since Ranchi nationals in October, 2019 where he threw 20.92m (NR). His last throw was at the World Military Games a few days later. In the race to Tokyo he is still inside top 32 bracket, but barely. He is delicately placed at 29. And needs a few competitions to figure on the Tokyo start list.

It was not until January this year that he started training earnestly after recovering for that last dash to the tape. Training load both on and off the field is intense until competitions.

His coach Mohinder Singh Dhillon and he chalked out a plan to compete during the Indian GP and the Federation Cup athletics meet in February/March. And then get ready for competitions in May/June.

Tajinder Pal Singh Toor

As of now, David Storl of Germany is ahead of him at 28 with a 20.83m on February 2021. While below him is Richards O'Dayne of Jamaica whose season's best is 19.79 (May, 2021). Twenty-seven athletes have sealed through qualifying standard. With the season starting in the US and Europe now, things can change. Because of the pandemic, not too many athletes have been competing either. Toor can't leave anything to chances either because there are others on the list that might overtake him.

"We were looking to do well and throw a good distance at Indian Grand Prix II and III and try and attain qualifying standard by Federation Cup in March," said Toor, who is preparing for his next competition at NCOE Patiala. Only problem is he doesn't know when.

"We had our plans and we were training accordingly," said the 26-year-old Asian Games gold medallist. "We targetted the Indian GP early on and the Federation Cup. Our progression had been satisfactory." He threw 19.49m, 20.09m and 20.58m in the three events. "I was getting close to the qualifying standard. I need events because I tend to do better when competition is tough. A couple of international meets would do a world of good. My preparations are going on fine and I am in good shape. There is no niggle in my hand either."

Even as the AFI is trying to find a country in Europe where Indians would be allowed without much restrictions, time is running out for Toor with June 29 as the cut off for the Olympics qualifications. There is a possibility that the AFI may conduct a couple of Indian GP next month in Patiala itself among the national campers. As of now, even the Inter-state senior nationals scheduled on June 25 in Bengaluru looks unlikely. "AFI has been trying. Certain things are beyond our control," he said. "I am ready for any competition any time."

Because of the heat, he has started practising late in the evening. "Adjustments need to be made here and there but training is going on fine."

Covid risk: Sundar stays away from Washington

VIVEK KRISHNAN @Chennai

WITH the Indian Test cricketers soon to embark on a four-month tour of England to take part in the World Test Championship final against New Zealand (scheduled from June 18-22) followed by a five-match Test series against England, the family time that they are getting since returning from a curtailed IPL is invaluable. Interestingly, Washington's father M Sundar is staying away from his son to minimise any risk of the all-rounder contracting Covid before he joins up with the Indian team in Mumbai.

With Sundar working as an administrative officer in the Income Tax department in Chennai, his work requires him to go to office 2-3 days in a week. And with the number of Covid cases in Chennai being quite high, Sundar has decided to not stay in the same house as his son as a precautionary measure. "Since Washington returned home from the IPL, I have been staying in another house. My wife and daughter are staying with Washington since they don't step out of the house. I am only seeing him on video calls. I am having to go to office a few days in a week. I don't want him to contract Covid because of me," Sundar told this daily on Monday.

Washington Sundar

According to Sundar, who is also his son's coach, Washington has always dreamt of playing Test cricket in England and considers the upcoming tour as a very important milestone in his career. "He has always wanted to play at Lord's and at other venues in England. It has been a long-standing aim of his. He doesn't want to miss out on this tour at any cost."

In 2018, Washington had been picked for the T20I and ODI series in England, but an injury suffered during a warm-up drill on the tour meant that he had to return home without playing a single game. The left-hander has made some vital contributions with the bat in Test cricket since making his debut in Australia earlier this year.

Jinson hopes to return to competitive mode by June end

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

JINSON Johnson didn't sense anything wrong after he had completed a training session when he had gone to give a test for Covid-19 last month. It felt like any other day as he was at the Bengaluru SAI training centre, busy preparing to qualify for the Olympics. The middle-distance runnerwas primed to make the Tokyo cut but Covid had other plans.

"I had done 14 kms on the day the testing was done. I didn't feel anything would be wrong but after I tested positive, it was a really tough phase. I had most of the symptoms like fatigue, body pain and severe headache. It was a very challenging phase. Even after I tested negative, I still had body pain and a lot of discomfort. I'm slowly recovering and starting to train," said Jinson, who missed out on several meets that could have helped him make Tokyo Olympics cut after the setback.

After leaving the camp in Bengaluru, Jinson has resumed light training and is currently in Ooty. The 30-year-old said that he is taking it slow but hopes to return to action by the end of next month. "I'm currently training little by little, and at the moment, it is high-altitude adaptation. After recovering from Covid, high intensity training is not possible right away. Hopefully I can get into good shape by the end of June so that if competitions are there, I can start competing again," he said.

The Tokyo Olympics looks out of reach at the moment but Jinson does not want to focus on that. "I was working really hard for the Olympics but now there is no point worrying over it. As athletes we have to deal with such setbacks and just focus on what is ahead of you. Yes, there is a lot of disappointment but these are things you can't control and worrying about it will only bring more stress. The focus right now is only to have a step-by-step process because Covid has taken a toll on my body," he said.

He admitted that if his body is unable to cope with the demands of high intensity training in the coming weeks, he will take it slow. Having stolen the show at the Asian Games in Jakarta back in 2018, Jinson is hoping that he can be at his peak during the continental event next year. "There is still time for that. But in terms of the major competitions that I want to focus on, I think the Asian Games is very important. I'll hope I can put a good show there," he said.

No evidence to *Al Jazeera* fixing claims, says ICC

AFP @Dubai

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) said Monday there were "insufficient grounds" to bring charges against five people who were featured in an *Al Jazeera* television programme about corruption in the game.

'*Cricket's Match Fixers*', broadcast by *Al Jazeera* on 27 May 2018, alleged that two matches were fixed: India v England in Chennai in 2016 and India v Australia in Ranchi in 2017.

The ICC anti-corruption unit's investigation, which focussed on the claims made by the programme, the suspects who were part of it and how the programme gathered evidence, concluded that there was "insufficient credible and reliable evidence" to pursue the matter.

The ICC engaged four independent betting and cricketing specialists to analyse the claims.

All four concluded that the passages of play identified in the programme as being allegedly fixed were entirely predictable, and therefore implausible as a fix.

"There are fundamental weaknesses in each of the areas we have investigated that make the claims unlikely and lacking in credibility, a viewpoint that has been corroborated by four independent experts," said ICC general manager Alex Marshall.

CA integrity unit reaches out to opener Bancroft

PTI @Sydney

CRICKET Australia's integrity unit has reached out to Cameron Bancroft to know if the pacer has any fresh information regarding the ball-tampering scandal that rocked the cricket world in 2018.

Bancroft created a fresh storm in Australian cricket by suggesting that more bowlers were aware about the plot that had led to one-year suspensions of then captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner. Bancroft, who had the sandpaper in his possession, was suspended for nine months for his role in the ball tampering plot during the Cape Town Test.

Ben Oliver, Cricket Australia's head of national teams, on Monday said that the integrity unit, which is currently headed by Rebecca Murray, had contacted Bancroft to know if there is anything else which he needs to add to his statement. Bancroft is currently playing County cricket in England.

Das batting coach of women's team

AGENCIES @NEW DELHI

GUTSY former India opener Shiv Sunder Das has been appointed the batting coach of the Indian women's team for the tour of England and he is looking forward to use his coaching stint at NCA to guide the youngsters during the trip. Das, who has played 23 Tests between 2000-02, has a decent average of near 35 with more than 1300 runs, including two hundreds and nine half centuries. "It will be good experience and I am looking forward to it," the 43-year-old said.

EXPRESS READ

Atletico a win away from La Liga title

MADRID: Luis Suarez scored the goal that could win Atletico Madrid La Liga when his 88th-minute winner snatched a remarkable 2-1 victory over Osasuna on Sunday after they had looked set to hand the title advantage to Real Madrid. Victory maintains their two-point advantage and another win away at Real Valladolid will guarantee the title.

Dortmund, Wolfsburg confirm CL berths

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund and Wolfsburg clinched Champions League qualification, while Hamburger SV's hopes of rejoining the Bundesliga were put on hold for another year. Dortmund won 3-1 at Mainz and Wolfsburg drew 2-2 at Leipzig to ensure both sides will finish among the top four to qualify for Europe's top club competition. Leipzig and Bayern Munich have already sealed their berth.

Martinez calls up Doku, Trossard for Euro 2020

BRUSSELS: Jeremy Doku and Leandro Trossard were called up Monday to the Belgium squad alongside the usual stalwarts for the European Championship. Belgium coach Roberto Martinez named a list of 26 players for the tournament. It also includes Eden Hazard, Romelu Lukaku and Kevin De Bruyne. Martinez also selected a group of 11 reserve players who could step up in case of injuries.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–4/ಟೆಂಡರ–35/2021–22/355 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.05.2021
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)
ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು.
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.05.2021, 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.05.2021, 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.05.2021, 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.05.2021, 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054- MDR Improvements Appendix 'E' During 2019-20, ವರ್ಕ್ ಐಡೆಂಟ್: 136885, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: Improvements & Asphalting to Kharwa Hosad Road km.0.00 to 3.00 in Honavar Tq. UK Dist. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 88,71,604.88, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಅವಧಿ: 9 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ)
(ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-proc ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ
DIPR/ADK/MCA/141/21-22 dt.17.5.2021

Govt. of Karnataka (Department of Revenue)
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
(District Urban Development Cell), Room No: 123
Dist Administrative Buld. Gadag- 582101
Tel No: 08372-231877 (F)E-mail: dudc_gdg@yahoo.co.in
No.DUDC/DVP/GADAG/CCMS/TA/CR-27/2018-19 DATED: 15-05-2021
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Deputy Commissioner, Gadag District Urban Development Cell Gadag District, Gadag invites tenders in two cover system using RFP from eligible Bidder for Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) through PPP mode in Gadag District ULB's limit under the CCMS Scheme as detailed below:-

Sl.No	Description of work
1	Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) in Gadag DUDC limits through PPP mode. (DUDC/DVO/GDG/CCMS/CR27/2021-22)

Bidder can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
(1) Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents : 13-07-2021 upto 17.30 hrs. (2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 15-07-2021 at 11.00 hrs.
Postponement of calendar of events (if any Corrigendum/ Addendums) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Gadag District, Gadag
DIP/Gadag/MCA/73/2021-22

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127 Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ನಾಎದಂಕಾ/ವಿ/ಯೋಶಾ–1/21–22/99 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.4.2021
:: NOTIFICATION ::
The Krishna Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL) have formulated a scheme for arranging power supply to an extent of 3 MVA to Koppal Lift Irrigation Scheme from 110KV Bevoor KPTCL Substation. This Power sanction is as per section 67 of the Electricity supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(ii) of the said act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows:
1) Name of the scheme: Construction of 110 KV Transmission line for Koppal Lift Irrigation Scheme from existing 110/33/11KV Sub-station Bevoor to proposed 110 KV Sub-station @ Gunnal village under self execution scheme in Yalaburga Taluk Koppal District. **2) The proposed 110KV line of length 9 km is passing through these areas:** Kushtagi Tq. Of Koppal District – Bevoor, Hunashihal, Gunnal, Uppaladinni, Hirevokkalakunti.
3) Estimate cost of the project: Transmission line: Rs. 550.00 Lakhs,
The KBJNL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities process under para(iii) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for carrying of the above scheme. Objection or discrepancies to the scheme, if any should be sent to the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,NLBC Division, Rodalbanda, Lingasugur, Raichur within 15 days from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by the corporation. Any objection after this period will not be considered.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalabanda.
DIP/Raichur/33/MC&A/2021-22

GOVERNEMENT OF KARANTAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, MYSURU
The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, MYSURU
Contact No.0821-2526347/email ID: ds2zpmys@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF GARBAGE VEHICLES TO GRAM PANCHAYATHS OF PERIYA PATNA TALUK, MYSURU DISTRICTUNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMIN)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
Tender is invited under Two Bid System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible suppliers having Infrastructure as stipulated in the Tender Document to **Supply of Garbage Vehicles** to **GRAM PANCHAYATHS OF PERIYAPATNA TALUK, MYSURU DISTRICT**
Tender Inviting Authority (TIA): Deputy secretary (Development), Zilla Panchayath, Mysuru. **Tender Accepting Authority (TAA):** Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Mysuru. **Tender Number & Date:** E Office file no:13332 dt: 07.05.2021. **e Procurement portal address:** https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in **Amount put to tender:** 171.00 lakh. **EMD amount:** Rs.2,56,500/- **Date of commencement of downloading tender document:** 13.05.2021 **Time and date of Pre bid meeting:** 21.05.2021 @ 11.00 AM @ ZP, Mysuru (mini meeting hall). **Last date and time for Receipt of tenders:** 27.05.2021 @ 17.00 PM. **Time and date of opening of Electronic Document, First (Technical Bid):** 29.05.2021 @ 11.00 AM. **Time and date of opening of Electronic Document, Second (Financial Bid):** 31.05.2021 @ 11.00 AM. **Place of opening of tenders: Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Mysuru. Address for communication:** Zilla Panchayath Mysuru. **Contact No & e Mail ID:** 0821-2526347 & ds2zpmys@gmail.com
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority, Deputy Secretary (Development)
DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/136/2021-22

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

IFB No.	F.Tirunelveli ISRO /SDO 2 / CW /2021 /Dt.12.05.2021
Fund	Deposit work
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.1/1,Sambakulam, Ganesh Nagar, Mattuthavani, Madurai - 625007
Sale of Bid & Place of Sale	17.05.2021 to 15.06.2021 up to 17.45 hours at O/o the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Urban Division, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu by cash or by Demand Draft for Rs.1000+ GST in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Urban Division, Tirunelveli payable at Tirunelveli.
Downloading website	(Free of cost) at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in.
Pre Bid meeting	02.06.2021 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	17.06.2021 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee in person or through post. This office will not be held responsible for postal delay, if any.
Bid opening	17.06.2021 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore including GST)	Bid security (Rs.in lakh)
1.	Providing WSS to ISRO at Mahendragiri from CWSS to Azhagiapandipuram & 8 Other Town Panchayats and 246 habitations in Kanyakumari District including maintenance for a period of 12 months. (Period of completion– 9 months)	3.70	2.78

DIPR/ 1550 /TENDER/2021 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
Dam Division, Almatti, Tq: Basavan Bagewadi,
Dist: Vijayapur. Phone No: 08426-281027
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No:KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2021-22/384-385 Dated:13.05.2021
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work of Closure Works:- **(1) Indent No. 21142 for Rs. 12.04 Lakhs (SC) (2) Indent No. 21187 for Rs. 14.09 Lakhs (SC) (3) Indent No. 21150 for Rs. 15.35 Lakhs (SC) (4) Indent No. 21162 for Rs. 11.10 Lakhs (ST) (5) Indent No. 21151 for Rs. 13.38 Lakhs (Others) (6) Indent No. 21138 for Rs. 58.87 Lakhs (Others) (7) Indent No. 21144 for Rs. 57.96 Lakhs (Others)** Special Repair Works:- **(1) Indent No. 21155 for Rs. 3.12 Lakhs (SC) (2) Indent No. 21156 for Rs. 2.67 Lakhs (SC) (3) Indent No. 21166 for Rs. 1.87 Lakhs (SC) (4) Indent No. 21157 for Rs. 3.59 Lakhs (SC) (5) Indent No. 21158 for Rs. 8.89 Lakhs (ST) (6) Indent No. 21164 for Rs. 4.46 Lakhs (ST) (7) Indent No. 21152 for Rs. 13.92 Lakhs (Others) (8) Indent No. 21139 for Rs. 71.77 Lakhs (Others) (9) Indent No. 21147 for Rs. 69.58 Lakhs (Others). The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 15.05.2021 to 25.05.2021 up to 5.00 PM. Cover-I will be opened on 26.05.2021 at 11.00AM Cover-II will be opened on 28.05.2021 at 11.00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti.
ಜಾಜಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/70/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2021–22

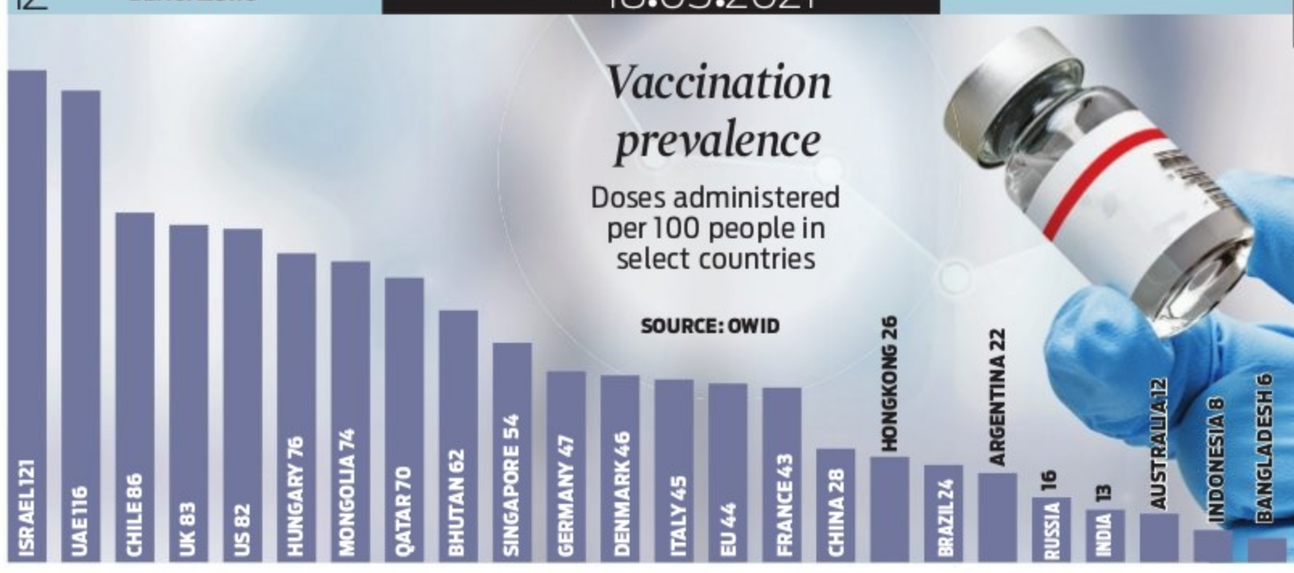
QuoteExpress **IN A GENTLE WAY, YOU CAN SHAKE THE WORLD** › MAHATMA GANDHI

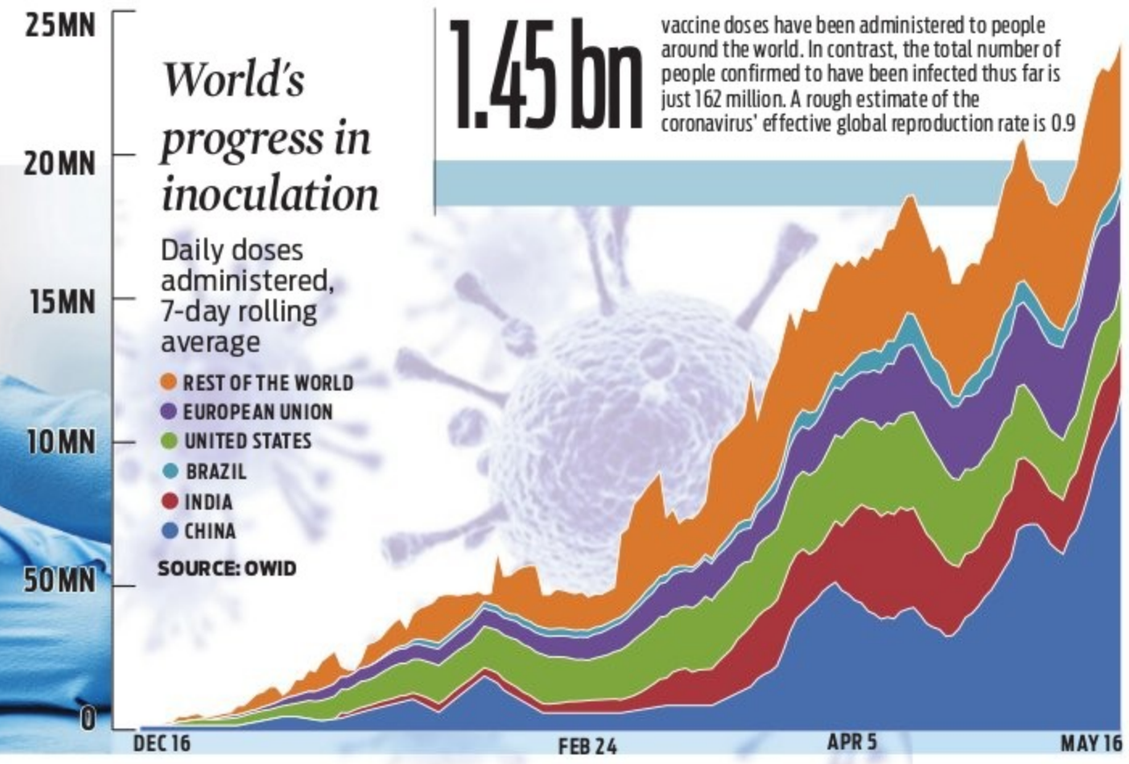
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

XPLORE

COMPILED BY: ARAVINDAKSHANS

12 BENGALURU | TUESDAY 18.05.2021





1.45 bn vaccine doses have been administered to people around the world. In contrast, the total number of people confirmed to have been infected thus far is just 162 million. A rough estimate of the coronavirus' effective global reproduction rate is 0.9

VACCINE VERSUS VARIANT RACE MAY TIGHTEN

In the second year of the coronavirus pandemic, it's once again a story of shortages. Twelve months ago, we didn't have enough testing kits; now, we don't have enough vaccine doses. Another area in which we are falling short is genomic surveillance of test samples, which identifes new variants in circulation. This puts the whole world at risk because the more the virus spreads, the more chance new variants will be born — variants that could reduce vaccine efficacy and thereby extend the Covid-19 crisis. Here's an overview of the world's vaccine coverage as well as our ability to sequence virus genomes

HOW VARIANTS CAN WREAK HAVOC

Different strains of the coronavirus could have mutations that evade the immune system, possibly leading to reinfections or breaking through a vaccine's protection. Variants could also possibly cause more severe disease

Research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* earlier this year indicated that the South Africa variant could significantly reduce Covishield's effectiveness, though researchers say that doesn't mean the vaccine should not be used against the variant

RISE OF NEW STRAINS

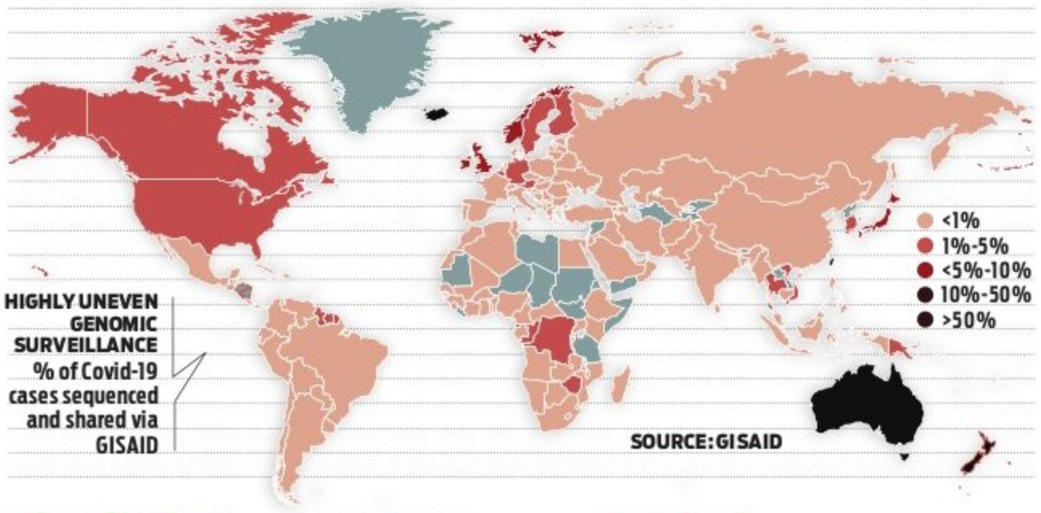
Gytis Dudas, an evolutionary biologist at the Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, told the news section of the *Science* journal that a new variant has been found in the African country of Cameroon. The variant, B.1.620, contains a set of mutations that have also been seen in variants of concern

This is a warning to the world, Science wrote. New variants with worrisome mutations are emerging in countries where there is a near-complete absence of genomic sequencing

And most of these countries also lack adequate access to vaccines and are currently reporting Covid-19 surges. This allows the virus to mutate further

Where the pandemic is currently unchecked is where we can expect that variants are on the rise. It would be much more interesting to sequence the last 1,000 cases in the Central African Republic than the next 100,000 cases in Germany

Gytis Dudas told *Science*



82% of the more than 1.5 million sequence entries in GISAID's global genomic database were uploaded by just 10 wealthy countries

1% of its total cases India is reported to be sequencing, and not all of the results are being uploaded to GISAID

5% When India set up 10 laboratories across the country for genomic monitoring, the goal was to sequence 5% of all samples from states. But the extent of our coronavirus surge is making it hard to meet the 5% target, according to Dr Gagandeep Kang

WHAT IS GENETIC SEQUENCING?

The unique genetic make-up of an individual organism is mapped to find out its properties. From cancer to flu, this technique has been used widely for research. This is the first time governments are incorporating real-time genomic surveillance data into the management of a global pandemic

Sequencing requires plenty of time and labour. Researchers sift through genetic sequences from many insignificant variants to find the dangerous ones

The UK is the world leader in genomic surveillance of Covid-19, in part because of a nationalised health system that collects data from around the country

STRUCTURAL SHORTCOMINGS

Genomic sequencing can be a costly affair and the required raw materials need to be imported. Another major hurdle is collecting samples for sequencing. The transport of the samples and the days needed for sequencing (by scientists who need to be trained for it) make the process daunting for researchers trying to set up fledgling networks

₹2.4 CRORE
A STATE-OF-THE-ART GENOMIC SEQUENCER CAN COST, *SCIENCE* REPORTED

Sanofi, GSK report success in vaccine, after initial setback

MEDICINE

PARIS: Sanofi and GlaxoSmith-Kline's potential COVID-19 vaccine triggered strong immune responses in all adult age groups in preliminary trials after an earlier setback, boosting optimism the shot may join the fight against the pandemic this year.

After two doses of the vaccine candidate, participants showed neutralizing antibodies in line with those found in people who had recovered from the disease, according to results of the Phase 2 trial released Monday. The drugmakers said they plan to begin late-stage trials and production in the coming weeks and hope to win regulatory approval for the vaccine before the end of 2021. Regulators have already authorized a number of COVID-19 vaccines, though experts say more are needed as public health authorities around the world race to vaccinate their residents amid a pandemic that has already killed more than 3.3 million people and caused economic havoc.

The Sanofi-GSK vaccine was an important part of the EU's vaccination strategy, and had notably been championed by French President Emmanuel Macron's government. But researchers had to reformulate it after early testing produced an inadequate immune response in older people.

The Sanofi-GSK candidate joins about a dozen vaccines now undergoing late-stage trials. The companies plan to produce up to 1 billion doses annually, and they have signed agreements to supply the U.S., Canada and developing countries, too. Public health experts say several vaccines will be needed to end the pandemic, because of the challenges in rapidly producing and distributing enough doses to vaccinate billions of people.

"We know multiple vaccines will be needed, especially as variants continue to emerge and the need for effective and booster vaccines which can be stored at normal temperatures increases," said Thomas Triomphe, head of Sanofi's vaccines unit.

New strain affecting kids more: S'pore

HEALTH

Singapore will close schools from Wednesday as authorities warned new coronavirus strains such as the one first detected in India were affecting more children in the city-state.

Authorities said Sunday that primary and secondary schools as well as junior colleges would shift to full home-based learning from Wednesday until May 28.

The announcement came after Singapore confirmed 38 locally transmitted coronavirus cases, the highest daily count in eight months. Some of the cases involved children linked to a cluster at a tuition centre. An additional 21 local transmissions were reported Monday. Health Minister Ong Ye Kung, citing a conversation he had with the ministry's director of medical services Kenneth Mak, said Sunday that the B.1.617 strain, "appears to affect children more". "Some of these mutations are much more virulent and they seem to attack the younger children," Education Minister Chan Chun Sing said.

BUGS & FLOWERS

A maybug beetle (*Melolontha*) at a garden near Moscow. The species nearly went extinct in the 1960s due to pesticides | AFP

FACT OF THE MATTER

New bitcoin energy source

TECHNOLOGY

As the value of bitcoin soars and concerns rise about the energy-intensive process needed to obtain it, cryptocurrency entrepreneurs in the United States believe they have found a solution in flared natural gas. Profitably creating, or mining, bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies requires masses of computers dedicated to solving deliberately complicated equations -- an endeavor that globally consumes more electricity than entire nations, but for which these start-ups say the jets of flaming gas placed next to oil wells are perfect power sources. Interest has grown in diverting flared gas to cryptocurrency mining, partly to lower costs.

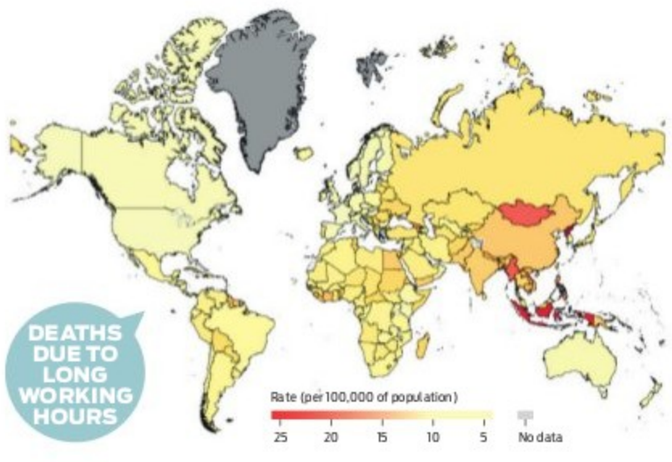
Unicef calls for jab donations

HEALTH

Countries belonging to the G7 and the European Union can afford to donate more than 150 million vaccines to countries in need without compromising their own goals, UNICEF said Monday. The world's seven richest states and the EU could help close the world's vaccine gap by sharing just 20 percent of their June, July and August stocks with the Covax jab scheme for poorer nations, a study by British firm Airfinity showed. "And they could do this while still fulfilling their vaccination commitments to their own populations," UNICEF director Henrietta Fore said. The UK is due to host its fellow G7 member states.

BOTH MEN AND WOMEN AT RISK

Working 55 hours a week raises risk of death by 17%, says first-of-its-kind UN study



HEALTH

GENEVA: Working more than 55 hours a week increases the risk of death from heart disease and strokes, according to a United Nations study out on Monday.

The report by the UN's World Health Organization and International Labour Organization agencies comes as the Covid-19 pandemic accelerates workplace changes that could increase the tendency to work longer hours.

The study, published in the Environment International journal, is the first global analysis of the risks to life and health associated with working long hours.

It focuses on the period before the pandemic, and the authors synthesised data from dozens of studies involving hundreds of thousands of participants.

"Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard," said Maria Neira, director of the WHO's environment, climate change and health department.

"It's time that we all -- governments, employers, and employees -- wake up to the fact that long working hours can lead to premature death."

The study concluded that working 55 hours or more per week was associated with an estimated 35 % increase in the risk of suffering a stroke, and a 17 % rise in the risk of dying from ischemic heart disease, compared to working 35 to 40 hours.

With working long hours now known to be responsible for about one-third of the total estimated work-related burden of disease, it is established as the risk factor with the largest occupational disease burden

World Health Organization

The WHO and the ILO estimated that in 2016, 398,000 people died from a stroke and 347,000 from heart disease after working at least 55 hours per week. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths due to heart disease linked to long working hours increased by 42%, while the figure for strokes went up by 19%.

Most of the recorded deaths were among people aged 60 to 79, who had worked 55 hours or more per week when they were between 45 and 74 years old.

Frank Pega, a technical officer from Neira's WHO department, said the study found no difference in the effects on men and women of working long hours.

However, the burden of disease is particularly high among men -- who account for 72% of the deaths -- because they represent a large proportion of workers worldwide and therefore the exposure "is higher amongst men", Pega told reporters at a briefing.

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TUESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Film release

India's first fetaure-length film *Shree Pundalik* was released on this day in 1912 at the Coronation Cinematograph, Mumbai

MISSED HONOURS

Though Ramchandra Gopal Torne made this film a year before Dadasaheb Phalke's *Raja Harischandra*, it missed all the honours to the latter

PLOT

Shree Pundalik is based on a Marathi play, Shree Pundalikwas, which is about a Hindu saint. It was written by Ramrao Kirtikar. There was no dialogue in the film

FILM EDITING

Torne was quite unsatisfied after seeing the recorded 'film'. He decided to shoot the play in parts and join them later which might be the beginning of 'film editing' in India

'I want to sign a 100 films and act till I can'

PG 4

STARTUP WATCH

Arasi Arul and Oli Arul

BACKSTORY

60plus India is a startup incubated at NSRCEL at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. Founded by serial entrepreneurs Arasi Arul and Oli Arul in August 2020, the startup aims to provide healthcare products and services to senior citizens across India through mobile applications, tele-support and web interfaces.

FINANCE FUNDA

The startup is bootstrapped till today and has received an angel investment commitment of Rs 50 lakh from a UAE-based investor as a first phase investment. From August 2020 to March 2021 they had a turnover of Rs 8 lakh and in May 2021 alone their turnover was Rs 12 lakh

USP

It attempts to offer senior citizens a single-window network to healthcare products and services and a referral network for partners, which senior citizens themselves or their children living abroad can use. Some of the services and products include stay-in and visiting nurses, medicines, senior care products, assistance in hospital visits, long-distance travel, maintaining medical records, running errands and more.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The startup targets senior citizens and their children abroad/in different cities who are looking for support and resources for their parents. So far they have attended to 740 cases in India and 186 cases in Bengaluru.

Abhinayah Sundaramoorthy, co-founder, The Yellow Dwelling

Jazz up your home and home office. Dot the house with planters, set up a mini dining area in your balcony, try DIY projects, and more...

MAKE ROOM FOR CHANGE

SIMRAN AHUJA

LIFE as everyone knows it is now confined to the indoors. But, a little change here, another one there, and life within four walls could a little brighter – and lighter on the heart.

Just ask Esha Stanley, whose home office space now houses some planters for a feeling of freshness and tranquillity - much needed in these times. It's with conviction that Stanley says, "It adds a soothing touch."

The co-founder of interior designing firm Concepto Studio has more tips. "You can even take old glass bottles and jazz them up with rope or paint over them. Put into it a money plant – which doesn't even need much sunlight – and place the bottles on your work desk. Since many of us face plain walls while working from home, this is a nice way to bring in some colour and calm," she says.

You can get creative and group together bottles in different shapes and sizes, fill them with some greens and place them in different nooks and corners of the house like your living room or on a centre table.

Interior and furniture designer Aiman Nishaat Shaikh suggests personalising the place. "Put up happy memories from older times or cute travel souvenirs. You can also add a small clock or other quirky props that bring out your personality," she says.

While the bulk of time is spent in the home office nowadays, sprucing up other sections of the house can also help. A rug with floor cushions can add some warmth to a living room and make it more inviting, suggests Shubhra Chadda, co-founder and design head at Chumbak.

A gallery wall dedicated to photographs, art work or knick-knacks that align with different family members' interests can also make a difference to a shared space. "This, in fact, is a good time to invest in unexplored spaces in your home," she says.

A good place to start? Set up a mini dining area in your balcony for a change of scenery during meal time. Place some planters (both hanging and regular ones), string lights and a table and chairs. "If there's no place for chairs, you could place a jute rug and some throw pillows," adds Chadda.

There's no doubt that choosing to buy new décor pieces or home furnishings is an act of privilege but you can still do your bit. Sounak Sen Barat, co-founder and creative director of House of Three, suggests digging into the background of the companies you buy from.

"Find out more about their narrative, their team size and ethics. It might be better to invest in small companies or ventures that pass on all proceeds to artisans," says Barat, as he emphasises on need for a "collective consciousness".

"Consider handloom furnishings, decor from local craftsmen, upcycled decor or if you're looking for artwork, support young and upcoming artists by buying their art instead," he says.

Cushions and throws can add a look of warmth | Pic courtesy: Chumbak

Invest in handcrafted furniture to support artisans | Pic courtesy: House of Three

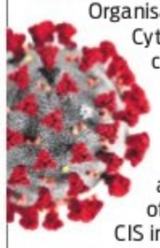
> Add a lot of plants to the balcony, vertical wall shelving, or hanging gardens. You can add a small chair and a table for you to work on
>
> Abhinayah Sundaramoorthy, co-founder, The Yellow Dwelling.

CITY READ

Online workshop for teachers

The Early Bird team is conducting an online workshop in early June. This is a workshop in their series called 'How to be a birding buddy', which is designed for school teachers who want to take birds and nature to their students. The duration of the workshop is two days on June 5 and 6 and the timings will be 2-5pm on both days. Check their Instagram page for details.

School sets up 120-bed oxygen facility on campus



Canadian International School, Bangalore (CIS) in association with the Entrepreneur's Organisation Bangalore chapter and Cytecare Cancer Hospitals has converted the school's boarding block into a 120-bed oxygen center and step-down facility. This facility will cater to those who do not need critical medical care but are in dire need of oxygen. As part of the first phase of the campaign, CIS intends to equip around 50 beds in the shortest possible time to meet the current demand. In the second phase, the plan is to support the costs needed to scale up this infrastructure to 120 beds.

MONIKA MONALISA

The latest collection from Pastels and Pop takes inspiration from nature. Dedicated to its karigars, the collection is set for a May 21 launch

Going to good places

THERE'S a saying that good shoes will take you to good places. This streak of faith in the future is possibly what Akanksha Chhabra and Aarti Chhabra, sisters and co-founders of artisan jutti brand Pastels and Pop, had in mind when they came up with their Spring Summer 2021 collection - Promise of Tomorrow.

The collection primarily draws inspiration from nature. "We carefully picked vivid colours like fuchsia pink and ink blue, as well as soothing, pastel shades like pale pink, ice blue and nudes in this collection to imbibe a sense of happiness and positivity as soon as you look at them," says Akanksha, whose designs have been worn by actors such as Sonam Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, Kirti Kulhari and others.

The collection of six pairs of juttis features striking floral patterns embroidered on the fabric, which includes silks, organic cottons, linen and organza. Other elements that stand out are the embellishments - hand-cut sequins, Czech glass beads, deliver pearls, colourful anchor threads and beads.

Promise of Tomorrow is a dedication to the karigars, Akanksha says. "Many of our karigars hail from Bihar, West Bengal etc. They are away from their homes, and are concerned for their family's safety. They have shown us how, even in these bleak and depressing times, hope for a happier future can still be harboured," says Akanksha.

Asked why the collection was being launched in a situation that resulted in the government imposing a lockdown, and whether the new designs would have any takers, Akanksha says, "We were supposed to launch the Spring Summer 2012 collection on April 12 but it got delayed due to the situation. If we don't launch it now, it will be unfair to the hard work our karigars have put in." The launch has now been scheduled for May 21.

Last year, the sisters were involved in many charitable activities to provide supplies to frontline workers. "This year we have not started yet. Once the collection is launched and sales start taking place, we plan to figure how we can go about with our CSR activity," Akanksha says.

Aarti and Akanksha Chhabra

> If we don't launch it now, it will be unfair to the hard work our karigars have put in
>
> Akanksha Chhabra, co-founder, Pastels and Pop

Some large-hearted residents of the city are looking after the pets of people sick due to Covid, while others look out for animals whose owners have died

Doggie's day out

EXPRESS FEATURES

PETS are a great source of comfort, but people who come down with Covid-19 - in some cases entire families - are often barely able to look after themselves, leaving their pets wanting for care. Several people have come forward to fill this need, and look after the pets of strangers in the city.

Since April 28, pet trainer Bernard Shannu, who lives in Jalahalli, has been taking care of a St Bernard belonging to an elderly woman who tested positive. "Apart from this, a lot of people call me to walk their dogs as they cannot step out," says Shannu, who quit a lucrative corporate job to become a pet trainer.

The people requesting help leash their pets outside their houses and he picks them up. "I'm not charging anything for looking after the St Bernard, except for the food and medicine. As for dog walking, I only charge fuel expenses if the house is far away. If its close by, I take my bicycle," the 35-year-old says.

Rekha Vijaykumar from Yelahanka is fostering cats whose owners are down with Covid. "I have two cats whose parents are in hospital with Covid, and a disabled cat whose owner who could not travel back to Bengaluru from Kerala due to the disease," she says.

Vijaykumar also feeds strays who barely get any food due to the lockdown. "So I cook rice and chicken and feed them once a day," she says.

A number of animals across the country end up being abandoned if their owners pass away due to Covid. Many of them end up on the streets, mentally affected by their sudden homelessness.

> Pets are affected by the deaths of their owners and extended family might not be in a position to look after them. That's why we came up with this programme
>
> Rakesh Shukla, founder, Voice of Stray Dogs

Rekha Vijaykumar is looking after three cats, one of them disabled, as their owners are suffering from Covid-19 | EXPRESS

To try and reduce the chances of this happening, Voice of Stray Dogs, a pan-India organisation, has been making efforts to get such animals adopted.

"Pets are affected by the deaths of their owners and extended family might not be in a position to look after them. That's why we came up with this programme. Currently, we are in an initial stage, wherein caregivers can call and follow up on the adoption process. But due to lockdown, it is taking a little time," says **Rakesh Shukla**, founder of the organisation. Around 20-30 per cent of inquiries for pet adoption are from Bengaluru.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

BRUNCH TIME

Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park, a Marriott International Hotel, is home delivering a brunch spread that includes soups, salads, desi chaats, pastas, tandoori items, biryanis, a selection of Indian and international main courses and more.
When: Sundays
Details: Call 8884452271

JAPANESE DECOR

Inspired by the ancient art of Japanese paper folding, the Origami collection by Kaleen India explores geometry and line —from realistic depictions of folded birds and flowers to abstract lined graphics.
Available at: kaleen-india.com

BIRYANI BINGE

ITC Hotels expands its food delivery network with its second cloud kitchen in Bengaluru, and catering will be handled by the kitchens of ITC Windsor. Their biryani and pulao collection will be available to order for the residents of Whitefield through food aggregator Swiggy.

PLAY TIME

Ranga Shankara's latest digital programme is called 'View from the 4th Row'. Single-camera recordings of plays, recorded as an academic archiving exercise, will now be made available to audiences. 'Sangeet Bani' will be available for viewing on Ranga Shankara's YouTube channel (RangaShankaraTheatre). **When:** 10 am, May 21

CHECK OUT THIS ONLINE INTERACTION WITH AUTHOR VENITA COELHO. **WHEN:** MAY 21, 5.30PM. **DETAILS:** NEEVLITERATUREFESTIVAL.ORG

Covid care dabba

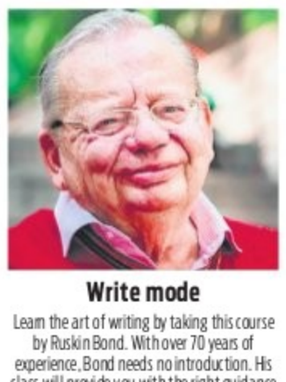
Grand Mercure Bengaluru at Gopalan Mall launches a care dabba, a Covid-19 care meal subscription plan. The initiative aims on providing healthy balanced meals to quarantined individuals at a subsidised price.
For details: Call 9513289992

Science lecture

Attend this lecture on 'Contagion and Electricity: Two Ways of Talking about Connection in Dance'.
When: May 23, 6.30pm. **Where:** Science Gallery Bengaluru YouTube channel

Running effect

Reebok introduces the spring summer variant of the Liquifect 180, a high-performance running shoe that has great cushioning, long-lasting comfort and lock in support from heel to toe. It comes in different colours and is priced at Rs 6,599. **Available at** shop4reebok.com, FlipKart and Amazon



Write mode

Learn the art of writing by taking this course by Ruskin Bond. With over 70 years of experience, Bond needs no introduction. His class will provide you with the right guidance to become a good writer.
When: Till May 30
Details: bookmyshow.com

Weight loss camp

Yoga and spiritual guru Grand Master Akshar has launched a seven-day free online weight loss camp. The sessions can be accessed between 5 pm and 6 pm each day on his YouTube channel.

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

ICED MOCHA

INGREDIENTS

- **Milk:** 2 cups ■ **Instant coffee powder:** 1 tsp or as per taste
- **Sugar:** 1 tsp ■ **Cocoa powder:** 1/2 tsp ■ A few ice cubes

METHOD

- Chill the milk for sometime. Add it to the mixer, along with sugar and coffee powder and pulse.
- Now, add the ice and cocoa powder and pulse again.
- Pour into a glass, ensuring the frothy part comes on top.
- If you like, you can drizzle some chocolate sauce before pouring the drink.

— Aditi V, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

PADMA SIRSASANA

(LOTUS IN HEADSTAND)

In Sanskrit, 'Padma' means lotus, 'sirsa' means head and 'asana' means pose. Inversion poses are beneficial to the practitioner as it sends a refreshing boost of energy or prana to the brain. The blood circulation in the head and upper body is improved. Therefore, it reduces nervous disorders and improves one's emotional state. In this asana, attention is given to alignment, as being straight is important in keeping the balance while in pose. The lotus holds great significance in Yoga. It represents the quality of self-awareness. Like a lotus, we too have many possibilities of rising above sorrows.

STEPS

- Start in Balasana (Child Pose).
- Keep a safe distance between your elbows.
- Lift your head and keep your elbows perpendicular to your shoulders.
- Interlock your fingers to create a strong fortress for your head.
- Bring the crown of your head on the floor and rest the back of your head against your interlocked fingers.
- Lift your knees off the floor. Straighten your back by slowly walking your toes towards your face.
- Slowly lift your legs up.
- Bend your right knee and place your right heel on your left thigh. Then, bend your left knee and place your left heel on your right thigh. Stay in this pose for as long as you can.
- Release your legs and bend your knees. Bring your legs on the floor and rest in Balasana.

BENEFITS

- Helps reduce stress and anxiety.
- Helpful in slowing down ageing.
- Helps massage the internal organs.
- Regular practise can improve digestion.
- Helps activate all the energy points.
- Strengthens arms, shoulders, spine, and core muscles.
- Recommended for those with varicose veins, thyroid, asthma, infertility and diabetes.
- Stretches the hips and groins.
- Helps stimulate the immune system, provides a shift of perspective.
- Also stimulates the pineal and pituitary glands to flush the body with life-sustaining hormones and strengthens the upper arms.

LIMITATIONS

- Those who have knee, hip, back, neck or head injuries, high or low blood pressure issues, glaucoma, tender head, neck pain, vertigo, should be avoided.
- Anyone suffering from heart problems, weight issues, hernia, should not practice.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

VEDANTA TALKS

These are talks given by Swami Sarvapriyananda at the Vedanta Society of New York (founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1894). Based on the Vedas, the sacred scriptures of India, Vedanta affirms the oneness of existence, the divinity of the soul, and the harmony of religions.
- On Apple Podcast

BELLWETHERS PODCAST

Bellwethers Podcast aims to enlighten minds with featuring some leaders, entrepreneurs and influencers from all around the world and share stories of how they achieved what everyone else thought was impossible.
- On Spotify

THEN WHAT ELSE?

Comedians Chitan and Sarvesh invite other artists to talk about anything and everything under the sun, until of course, one of them runs out of things to say and responds with the inevitable "Alright... then what else?"
- On Apple Podcasts

THE PEOPLE'S PHARMACY

Pharmacologist Joe Graedon and medical anthropologist Terry Graedon talk to leading experts to discuss their research on issues relating to drugs, herbs, home remedies, vitamins and related health topics.
- On Apple Podcast

CURIOSITY DAILY

Discovery's Cody Gough and Ashley Hamer will help you learn about your mind and body, outer space and the depths of the sea, and how history shaped the world into what it is today.
- On Google Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

FIRST RANK RAJU

Raju, a bookish young man, fails a job interview owing to his lack of practical knowledge and contemplates suicide. So his parents decide to make him more pragmatic and ready to face the real world.
- Cast: Gurunandan, Apoorva Gowda

DIA

Dia takes three years to confess her feelings to Rohith but after a terrible accident, she is told he does not survive. Later, when she starts seeing Adi, she finds out that Rohith is still alive.
- Cast: Kushi, Pruthvi Ambaar

RANNA

Sharat assures his ageing grandfather that he will reunite him with his estranged daughter. To fulfil his promise, he goes to work for the woman's family as a driver.
- Cast: Sudeep, Rachita Ram

RAJA RANI

Rani, an impoverished woman, meets Raja, a wealthy actor, and pretends to be rich. However, Babu, who lusts after her and knows her truth, tries to wreck their relationship.
- Cast: Sivaji Ganesan, Padmini, SS Rajendran, TA Madhuram

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHY I PHOTOGRAPH THE QUIET MOMENTS OF GRIEF AND LOSS BY CAROLINE CATLIN

The only thing as powerful as our grief is the love we have for those we've lost, says photographer Caroline Catlin. In this meditation on the intersection of life and death, Catlin shares how her personal journey drove her to capture the elusive moments of grace in tough times.

2 HOW TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS BY JULIA DHAR

"We need to figure out how we go into conversations not looking for the victory, but the progress," says world debate champion Julia Dhar. In this practical talk, she shares three essential features of productive disagreements grounded in curiosity and purpose. The end result? Constructive conversations that sharpen your argument.

3 WHAT IF MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS RESPONDED TO EMERGENCY CALLS? BY LESLIE HEROD

When you report an emergency in the US, police, firefighters or paramedics answer the call. What if mental health professionals responded, too?

4 HOW DOES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LEARN? BY BRIANA BROWNELL

Today, Artificial Intelligence helps doctors diagnose patients, pilots fly commercial aircraft, and city planners predict traffic. These AIs are often self-taught, working off a simple set of instructions to create a unique array of rules and strategies. Briana Brownell digs into the three basic ways machines investigate, negotiate, and communicate.

5 THE MYTH OF BRINGING YOUR FULL, AUTHENTIC SELF TO WORK BY JODI-ANN BUREY

Calls for authenticity at work ask for passionate people with diverse, fresh perspectives who challenge old ways of thinking. But too often workplace culture fails to support the authenticity of professionals of colour and other underrepresented groups.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

YUVARATHNAA (Kannada)

A reputed college that is now on the verge of closing due to the privatisation of the education system and political reasons. The college principal fights against privatisation and the protagonist supports his vision.

Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Sayyeshaa Saigal, Sonu Gowda

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

EE KATHALO PAATRALU KALPITAM (Telugu)

Three aspiring actors investigate the story of a model linked to a murder.

Cast: Pavan Tej Konidela, Babloo Prithveeraj, Raghu Babu

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ARISHADVARGA (Kannada)

An aspiring actor doubling as an amateur gigolo gets caught up in a sticky situation after accepting a surprise gift from an anonymous client.

Cast: Anju Alva Naik, Nandagopal, Samyukta Hornad, Manvitha Kamath

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SAINA (Hindi)

The story of Saina Nehwal, a professional badminton player who once ranked number one in the sport.

Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Manav Kaul, Eshan Naqvi

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE LAST HOUR (Hindi, series)

A mysterious young shaman, on the run protecting a secret gift, joins hands with a seasoned city police officer to hunt down a dangerous figure from his dark past; when he falls for the officer's young daughter, he is torn between duty and love.

Cast: Sanjay Kapoor, Raima Sen, Karma Takapa, Shaylee Kishen

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

PHOTO PREM (Marathi)

A photophobic woman is on the journey to find a photo of herself to be put up in her eulogy.

Cast: Neena Kulkarni, Amita Khopkar, Vikas Hande

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ANVESHANAM (Malayalam)

When Aravind learns that something unexpected has happened to his family, he rushes out to meet them in the hospital, only to find himself in an unforeseen situation.

Cast: Jayasurya, Shruti Ramachandran, Leona Lishoy

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ENGLISH

WONDER WOMAN 1984

Though she's come into her full powers, Diana Prince maintains a low profile by curating ancient artifacts, and only performing heroic acts incognito. But soon, Diana will have to muster all of her strength, wisdom and courage as she finds herself squaring off against Maxwell Lord and the Cheetah.

Cast: Gal Gadot, Kristen Wiig, Chris Pine, Pedro Pascal

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD (series)

After escaping a Georgia plantation, Cora boards a train embarking on a harrowing trip as she seeks true freedom while being hunted by a notorious slave catcher.

Cast: Thuso Mdebu, Chase Dillon, Aaron Pierre, Joel Edgerton

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Headstrong farmer Rosemary Muldoon has her heart set on winning her neighbour Anthony Reilly's love. But Anthony seems to have inherited a family curse, and remains oblivious to his beautiful admirer.

Cast: Emily Blunt, Jamie Dornan, Jon Hamm, Christopher Walken

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

DUNKIRK

During World War II, soldiers from the British Empire, Belgium and France try to evacuate from the town of Dunkirk during an arduous battle with German forces.

Cast: Harry Styles, Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy, Fionn Whitehead

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Amazon Prime Video: ₹129 per month

ALL HANDS ON DECK

ONE FOR ALL

Sandalwood's fashion designers are going all out to help people with verified information and organising blood and plasma donation camps

Laxmi Krishna

> Every life matters at this point, and we have to do our best, rather than just wait for things to fall in place
>
> Bharghavi Vikyathi, fashion designer

EXPRESS FEATURES

They are known for their abilities to cast the glow of glamour on celebrities, but when the pandemic made life grim, some of Sandalwood's biggest fashion designers got to work, helping with Covid care.

Laxmi Krishna's day usually starts with calls from actors and directors for discussions on various projects. But these days, everything has taken a back seat and her focus is on making arrangements for people need of medical help.

"Right now the biggest problems that people are facing are getting a hospital bed, medicine supplies and oxygen concentrators. And a lot of people reach out to me for help," says Krishna, whose last project was *Bigg Boss Kannada* Season 8.

She says that having a doctor in the family is a huge help. "My brother is an ICU specialist at the Covid centre of KLS in Hoskote. I try to learn stuff from him so that I am not passing on any wrong information," says Krishna, who lost her father-in-law to Covid recently.

Krishna emphasizes that nowadays there is so much information at your fingertips that merely passing it on is not enough. "If I am giving a number to someone, I make sure that it is verified or I myself call to check if it is genuine or not," she says.

When the number of cases was going up, fashion designer Riyaz Pasha reached out to his fellow workers in the profession to see if they could all help with Covid, he barely got a response.

"If people say they have connections why not use it in the right way? It was getting frustrating for me to see so many people lose their lives for information," says Pasha.

However, those who did respond to him are part of a WhatsApp group called SOS Bangalore, through which they try to help with medicines and oxygen concentrators.

Bharghavi Vikyathi, known for working closely with actor Sreeleela, shares the same views. She says, "Privileges can come in many forms. It's up to us how we use it."

Vikyathi has been organising blood donation and plasma donation camps, and is now planning to reach out to the elderly in old age homes to get them vaccinated. She is also distributing food for frontline workers.

"Every life matters at this point, and we have to do our best, rather than just wait for things to fall in place," Vikyathi says.

Finding humour through a mask in this war

OPEN SPACE
Nirad Mudur
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The mask, no doubt, has become the most important part of our wardrobe. We look after each of these defensive weapons against the SARS-CoV-2 virus as if our life depends on them, and it does to quite an extent if kept clean and worn properly. But they have played truant under cover of protection, some in humorous ways amid the prevailing gloom.

Words and emotions are muffled, and these play a crucial link with our understanding of those around us. It compromises our social mechanism, of understanding and being understood, of mutual vibes, be they good or bad.

You step out of your house and are intercepted by a neighbour who appears to be glaring at you from the eyes just above the top lining of the mask. You wonder why. Some muffled words escape his multi-layered N-95, which don't actually do justice to your cochlear system to effectively register in your brain. Suddenly, you are in a fix, not knowing how to react to the "stare" and the muffled utterances.

Well, you have been tricked. Had the mask not been on my neighbour's face, it could have been a brilliant smile, and the 'sounds' would probably have been a "good morning" or "have a nice day" or an enquiry about health, family or work - something pleasant. But now, you never know. Smiles remain hidden, expressions remain veiled, and voices become mere sounds without meaning, or worse, even misunderstood.

The other morning a friend called. He is known to be a bit too sentimental. He sounded upset. He had visited a neighbour, an elderly lady, to enquire whether she needed anything as he was headed to the groceries. He said he rang the doorbell, and when she opened, what she said humiliated him, so he returned home upset. "I went to help her, and she was so rude!" he cried.

"What did she say?" I asked him.

"She said 'Don't come! I am about to have my breakfast...'"

Having known the lady, and quite sure she may not have meant what she was supposed to have said, I called her and politely enquired about the incident.

"I don't know...I opened the door and I just said 'Welcome! I am having my breakfast...' and even before I could offer him some, he was gone. I tried to call him, but he isn't answering my calls..."

So I asked her the million-dollar question: "Were you wearing a mask when you said that?" The reply was in the affirmative. Being a senior citizen and living alone, she always wears one before answering a doorbell. The mask had muffled a "welcome" into a "don't come", and left the rest to my friend's sentimentalities!

Another incident, another friend: This one went to the bank and had forgotten to wear a mask. The security guard rushed to him and firmly said he cannot enter without wearing one. There was a time when had my friend entered the bank with a mask on, the same security guard would have responded with his double-barrel gun pointed at him!

We have come to such a point where not wearing masks would let the microscopic invaders get the upper hand, playing havoc with your respiratory, nervous and gastrointestinal systems. No humour in that. Billions can vouch for that.

In this war - it can be justifiably described as that - every individual needs to be a fortress, the mask being the prime one, vaccination or not. So, instead of cribbing over having to wear a mask, let's find some humour in doing so, and stay protected. Jim Carey would agree! I would prefer the 'Mask' he had...

Water to the rescue

SRI JAHNAVI

The summer heat can be harsh on feathered friends who struggle to stay hydrated. Haphazard urbanisation and rising pollution levels have made things worse for them, with crows and sparrows vanishing from the landscape and flocking cleaner, greener villages. Experts say it is high time that the lost nature is reintroduced to the city, which is possible by adapting different habitats that provide comfort to these winged creatures.

According to Dr Ramesh, a veterinarian, birds play an important role in our ecosystem and it is critical to protect all the species. Overcrowding is the primary cause of bird loss in cities, he says. "Keep a bowl of water on your balcony or terrace during the summer. Ideally, one should use a mud or clay bowl," he says.

Dr Ramesh also suggests that people adopt birds and help keep them secure in their natural environment. He stresses the need to plant more trees as this may attract a small number of birds back to the city. "But if pollution levels are not regulated, they will never return," he says.

According to Panneeru Teja, an animal activist, preserving nesting houses can attract birds to the city. "Unfortunately, there is no natural source of water due to pollution. By preserving their nests, we might be able to save many birds from dying of sunstroke," he says.

Insta: A musician's new best friend?

TUNING IN
Bindu & Ambi Subramaniam

A few weeks ago, I wrote about how the next big hit could be 15 or 30 seconds long, because that's the length of Instagram's reels, and a lot of people wrote in asking whether or not we thought that's a good thing. The truth is, whether it is or isn't a good thing, it is most certainly an interesting thing.

Social media is a great way to get your music out to a wider audience, and connect with people you don't know. Look at it this way – when Twitter started, its character limit forced people to be concise and get to the point quickly. Think of reels as a musical tweet in some sense and try to create something insightful and powerful in a very short amount of time.

Instagram has two other interesting features which are great for musicians: one is layout, and the other is remixing reels.

With Instagram's layout, you can layer up to three videos in the same frame. This is really cool if you want to sing vocal harmonies, or if you're playing different instruments and want to put it all together to make a song that you can then share. You record one after the other (make sure you're in time and in the right key) and voila, you've created an ensemble out of yourself.

Another great thing to try is remixing reels, where you can take a reel that has been recorded and posted, and add your own video (and audio on it). If you hear a singer that you like, you can record a duet with them. Or if you hear a great piano melody that you want to play the violin on, go for it. Remix it and share it with the world. Bonus is that Instagram's algorithm seems to promote remixed reels, so you may find a new, larger audience!

This lockdown summer we've seen a lot of our students do some amazing things with Instagram's features, and then graduate to video and audio editing software to create more complex layers and collaborations. Have you played around with any of these features? Let us know how they've worked for you!

(The authors run SaPa - the Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts)

Illustartion
Amit Bandre

CITY READ

Online course on sustainable cities

Indian Institute for Human Settlements has partnered with the SDG Academy to design an online course called Sustainable Cities. It examines how urban sustainability can be delivered with increasing productivity and reduced inequality, provisions of universal basic services and infrastructure, etc. This is a self-paced course. Email dbl_team@iihs.ac.in for more information

Nursing award launched

Aster DM Healthcare has launched the Aster Guardian Global Nursing Award. Nurses from Bengaluru and across the world can apply for the award by submitting a nomination that includes information about their work on www.asterguardians.com. The winner will be announced on International Nurses Day in 2022. The first prize is USD 250,000 and nine finalists will get a cash prize and awards.

LIVING IN LOVE

LOVEOLOGY
Mahesh Natarajan

In ordinary times, we expect death to visit us and our loved ones largely in the fullness of life. We suppose there is a natural order to life and death, with death expected to come when it does for the most infirm of the lot, giving the people lots of time before coming again for another person. We hope children outlive their elders, we trust there is time, that there's a future.

In that faith, we take time to plan and prepare for life. We work towards a career, build homes, choose a partner, fall in love and let ourselves be loved. We believe there is time, there is life and that therefore, we can wait, delay our gratification, let things develop and have even better of a lived experience because we waited and worked towards something.

If we knew how little time we have, how much would we imagine and plan for our lifetime, and what would we prioritise? If we were told we had exactly 10 years, what would we do? How about 10 days? And, to cut it really fine, how about 10 minutes?

If we were really assured that no matter what, we will have 10 years of life but no further, maybe we would encash all our assets, go on a bucket list tour, experiencing everything we wished to experience in life, counting down to the last rupee for the last day. If it was 10 days, we might do something else altogether. We might try and put our affairs in order in double quick time, writing wills and such, making sure our assets go where we wished for it to go, say long good byes to the ones we care about, eat the food we really loved and go for glory in those few days.

If it was just 10 minutes, none of that might matter. We might just want to make those two or three phones calls to our most beloved, tell them we love them and maybe call someone we wronged to fess up and ask for forgiveness, maybe do one last act of grace and try to let go of fear, as we face the great ever after with as much courage as we can muster.

Chances are, the lesser time we know we have, the more we might just want to connect with loved ones and when it really is hardly any time at all, maybe it is the only thing that matters other than the fear of the imminent death itself.

Nothing clarifies one's love as much as the idea of losing it or ourselves. Whether it is Covid or something else, the fear of death quite likely also brings clarity on what and who one loves, and that wish to be connected in love overrides almost everything else.

Do we really need the reminder of mortality to get such clarity? How would life be if we could remember that love matters at all times? Can you imagine such a life? In all the gloom and doom of the pandemic, is this possible?

(The author is a counsellor with InnerSight)

K S Ashoka

CE FEATURES

DIA DIRECTOR'S NEXT TO BE A THRILLER

K S Ashoka has made a temporary halt in Mangaluru, where he has started penning the first draft for his third Kannada outing

Director K S Ashoka, who made headlines with his horror flick *6-5=2* and romantic film *Dia*, is coming up with a thriller subject for his third outing in Kannada. The filmmaker is making use of the lockdown and is temporarily camping in Mangaluru where he is penning the story. "I have the story in my head, which now needs to translate onto paper. I have been in Mangaluru in the last one week and am writing the first draft of my next film," says Ashoka, adding, "I intend to complete the script and then scout for actors who can justify the characters".

The director had the opportunity to helm the remake of *Dia* in Hindi, which is currently in the post-production stage. "The same story was used only with minor changes. The only difference was that I got to see some new faces and locations. Got to work with a new team which brought about some freshness. The production house making this film in Hindi had organised things well," he says.

Ashoka is currently penning a thriller that will suit both the theatrical space and OTT platforms. We hope to see every film on the big screen. But at this point, OTT has taken things over. From my observations, thrillers are a favourite on OTT. I am developing the script keeping all these factors in mind. However, my first wish is always a theatre release," says Ashoka, who wants to begin shooting in October-November. "I am pinning hopes to begin my project soon, provided the state and the country are out of the pandemic situation," he adds.

'I WANT TO SIGN A 100 FILMS AND ACT TILL I CAN'

A SHARADHAA

Nidhi Subbaiah, who made her small screen debut with *Bigg Boss* Kannada Season 8, talks to *CE* about life life post the reality show, and how she is waiting to get back to work

NIDHI Subbaiah begins her day with a song, which has been her ritual post waking up. This is something she has got used to after staying in the *Bigg Boss* house for 72 days. The main intention to participate in the reality show for the actor, who has acted in films like Anna Bond and *Pancharangi*, was to let people know that she is right here and not in Mumbai.

"I came back last year before the lockdown. Before that I was in New York. I am currently in Mysuru and plan to shift to Bengaluru to stay closer to the film industry," says Nidhi, adding that the *Bigg Boss* Kannada show has given her a different kind of fame, and people have connected with her on a personal level. "It is overwhelming to hear from people across Karnataka calling me the '*Pancharangi* Girl'. "Especially in Kodagu, they now consider me as 'Nangada Nidhi' (our girl). Moreover, this *Bigg Boss* house has taught me some life lessons — how to deal with pressure, anger and frustration. I learnt to be disciplined — sleeping and waking up on time, something that had gone haphazard previously. I've also learnt to cook and eat simple food without having to order in junk food all the time. It has made a difference to my lifestyle, and I hope to continue these habits," she says, adding that the show also gave her seven good friends, whom she hopes to stay connected with. The actor, who started her career in Sandalwood, got an opportunity to work in a handful of Hindi films. However, Nidhi says that she was never attracted by Bombay and the only reason for her move to Hindi films was because she wasn't getting the kind of work she wanted in Kannada. "When I was shooting for *Anna Bond* in Bangalore was when I signed two Hindi films. I felt Bollywood was calling, and as an actor, I thought I should give it a try. I did 6 to 7 films, which helped me expand," she says.

Back to Sandalwood, Nidhi -- who was last seen in Shivarajkumar-starrer *Ayushman Bhava* that featured her in a pivotal role — is now waiting to begin her next project. This will be her first horror film, which will be bankrolled by Lohith H's Friday Films, and will be helmed by debutant directors Pavan and Prasad. "It is a fantastic script, and can't wait to begin," says Nidhi, adding, "Staying inside in the *Bigg Boss* house, I had no idea about the Covid goings-on. I was planning to begin shooting post my exit from the house. We were in for a shock when we were shown clippings of what's happening. Now, we have to wait for the situation to come under control to start any entertainment activities," she says.

Nidhi, who loves acting, says given an opportunity she would like to sign a 100 films and act till she can. "I love acting, and the time between 'action' and 'cut' is like a moment of meditation for me. It is my favourite time when I forget everything and get into the skin of the character," says the actor. "I hope to be a part of the role that Taapsee Pannu plays in *Thappad*, or *Pink*," she adds.

The audience as well as the film fraternity have watched Nidhi up and close in the *Bigg Boss* house. Will it make a difference to the kind of roles she will be offered from now on? "My director friends who watched me on the show say I was bold, straightforward, and didn't use tactics. That's how I am in real life — frank and bold. Now that people have seen me, directors too know what I am capable of. This might help fetch roles that fit my personality," she says.

Nidhi Subbaiah

SHILAJIT MITRA

Rakul Preet Singh and Arjun Kapoor

'We had a natural bonding on set'

Arjun Kapoor, Neena Gupta and team talk about *Sardar Ka Grandson* and staying vigilant through the second wave

AFTER his grandmother falls sick, a young man takes it upon himself to fulfil her dying wish. He petitions the Pakistan High Commission to let her visit her old house in Lahore. When the plea is rejected, he takes another route. Using hydraulic jacks and a truck, he plans to transport the whole structure over to India. "Not homecoming," says Amreek (Arjun Kapoor), grinning broadly. "Home is coming."

This is the crazy, family-friendly premise of *Sardar Ka Grandson*, a new Netflix film starring Arjun and Neena Gupta. "My first question when I heard the script was – is this possible?" recalls Arjun, back in comedy mode after 2017's *Mubarakan*. "It sounded impossible, yet by the end of the film you buy into it. That, for me, was the charm of this story."

Arjun and Neena were co-stars on *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar* (2021), though with limited scenes together. *Sardar Ka Grandson* was their chance to collaborate more closely. "There was a natural bonding that grew between us," shares Neena, who plays the titular Sardar. "We did not have to keep checking on each other or exchange pleasantries. It just happened on its own. A lot of it was also because of the beautifully-written scenes we had together."

One scene, for instance, has the actors chatting over the 'duty-free' whiskey Amreek has brought home for Sardar. "It's my favourite scene!" Neena beams. She says she felt disappointed when it was edited down in the final version. "We shot the whole night for it. It was extremely cold. We had four-five heaters around. It was so beautiful because we really took our time to do that scene. It has a lot of pauses and feeling. We were crying in happiness through that scene."

> *As actors, you sometimes get caught up in the exterior environment and want to wrap up fast*
> Arjun Kapoor, actor

"As actors, you sometimes get caught up in the exterior environment and want to wrap up fast," Arjun adds. "Thankfully, that wasn't the case here. I remember Neena ma'am didn't leave the wheelchair even once and neither did I. We kept shooting till we got it."

Director Kaashvie Nair was inspired by a New York Times article about a man who rebuilt a house from Kerala brick by brick. She looked up videos on structural relocation, and was struck by images of entire houses being shifted on jacks. Around the same time, she caught a documentary on an Indian man who revisits his house in Lahore. This was in 2017 – the 70th year of Independence. "That emotion just struck a chord," says Kaashvie, who jotted down the treatment over one frenzied night (novelist Anuja Chauhan has a screenplay credit, and the dialogue is by Amitosh Nagpal).

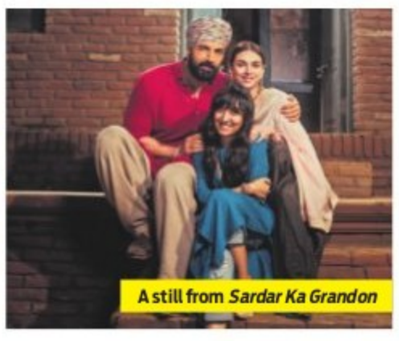
Unlike other partition stories, Kaashvie wanted to tap into the happy memories of her characters. The violence and trauma, though hinted at, fade into the background. "When you read partition accounts you realise people are only reminiscing about the good things," Kaashvie explains. "With Sardar's character, we did not want to make her this old, bitter-with-life woman. Even when she was young, she was this feisty woman who fell in love and lived her life exactly how we do today."

The other half of Amreek's journey centres on Radha (Rakul Preet Singh), his state-side girlfriend who arrives to help him. They're on a break – since Amreek won't grow up or clean up his act. "I could connect with Radha because she's very particular about her habits," Rakul says. "In my own life, too, I'm a little OCD about certain things, which Kaashvie could see. She kept telling me I'm totally Radha."

Arriving at a difficult time, Sardar Ka Grandson hopes to cheer up people strung out by the pandemic. The film's themes of generational bonding and caregiving should resonate with all, the team feels. "Everyone is fighting their own battle right now," says Arjun, whose own grandmother has recently recovered from Covid-19. "I stay in the same city and still feel vulnerable. I can't imagine what it's like for people staying away from their families. It's been over a year but we are back to square one. We can't get complacent again."

Neena urges people not to forward anything without cross-checking. "Let's remember this is a virus that can affect anyone. So please be vigilant and don't spread misinformation."

Neena Gupta


A still from *Sardar Ka Grandson*

Vidya Balan's *Sherni* to premiere on Amazon Prime Video

CE FEATURES

Vidya Balan's next, *Sherni*, is set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video, the makers of the film officially announced. Produced by T Series Films in association with Abundantia Entertainment, Sherni is directed by Amit Masurkar, best-known for helming Newton, India's official entry to the Oscars in 2017.

Vidya, whose last release *Shakuntala Devi* also premiered on Amazon Prime Video, is playing an upright forest officer who strives for balance in a world of man-animal conflict in *Sherni*. Sharing the film's first look on Twitter, the *Kahaani*-actor wrote, "Fearless as she steps out into the world! Happy to announce my latest film *Sherni*."

The film also features a brigade of seasoned Bollywood actors including Sharad Saxena, Mukul Chaddha, Vijay Raaz, Ila Arun, Brijendra Kala, and Neeraj Kabi. Sherni will be out on Amazon Prime Video in June, and the release date is expected to be announced shortly.

Aishwarya Sonar on board *The Gray Man*

CE FEATURES

The star cast of the upcoming Netflix actioner, *The Gray Man*, now includes actor Aishwarya Sonar. Aishwarya, best known for her performance in the 2017 Marathi film *Kaay Re Rascalaa*, confirmed the news in a recent interview. According to sources, Aishwarya, who also worked as an assistant director on the 2016 Marathi film *Ventilator*, will be seen in a minor role.

The Gray Man made waves in India last year when actor Dhanush was announced as part of the film. Aishwarya's casting makes her the second Indian actor to join the project.

Directed by The Russo Brothers, known for their work on Marvel films including two Captain America films and two Avengers films, *The Gray Man* features an international star cast that includes the likes of Ryan Gosling, Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, Wagner Moura, and Jessica Henwick. Billed as an action-thriller, the film is based on Mark Greaney's novel of the same name.